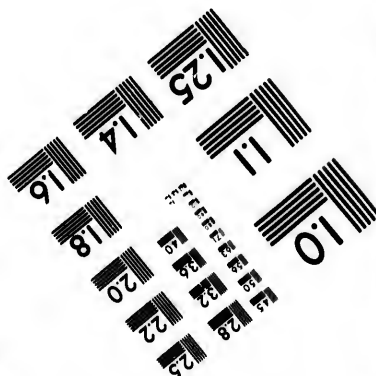
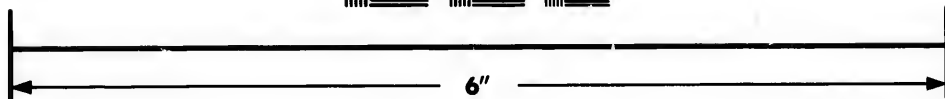
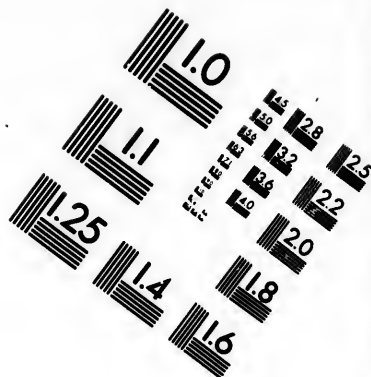




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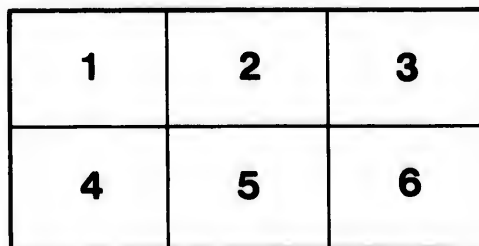
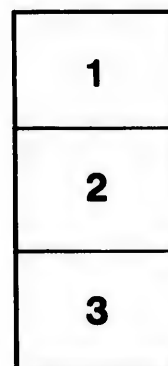
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STEELE'S
BOOK OF
NIAGARA FALLS.

EIGHTH EDITION,

CAREFULLY REVISED AND IMPROVED.

ILLUSTRATED BY
MAPS OF THE FALLS AND IMMEDIATE VICINITY,
AND OF THE NIAGARA RIVER, FROM
LAKE ERIE TO LAKE ONTARIO,
AND SIX NEW VIEWS.

SAMUEL A. PIERCE

BUFFALO:
OLIVER G. STEELE.
.....
1840.



Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1840, by
OLIVER G. STEELE,
In the Clerk's Office of the Northern District of New York.

MADE IN THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
Steele's Press.

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PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH EDITION.

The following work has now reached the eighth edition, and has been constantly increasing in popular favor. It is now admitted to be an indispensable companion for all persons desirous of obtaining accurate information, and a correct idea of this greatest wonder of the world.

The work was originally prepared by Mr. H. A. Parsons, who was for a long time resident at the Falls, and familiar with the whole scenery at all seasons of the year, as well as with all the interesting localities in the vicinity; who omitted no means of obtaining accurate information in relation to the various facts stated, and his work was the first on that subject, of any extent or accuracy, ever published.

The present edition has been carefully revised, as well as improved in many particulars. New and correct maps of the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, and of the Falls and immediate vicinity, have been added, and also, six new and accurate views of the Falls, from the most commanding positions. The work is now believed to be correct in every respect; and far superior to any other yet before the public.

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BOOK OF NIAGARA FALLS.

IN these days of rapid travelling, when the most trifling delay is deemed a calamity, a few directions may be necessary, to enable you to save time, and view the various points of interest to the best advantage. At the same time we can not help deprecating the mania so prevalent at the present day, of making our excursions for pleasure, mere races against time. No person should come to Niagara, for the *first time*, and leave the same day; it is utterly impossible for one to conceive or realize its grandeur or beauty in such a visit—in fact one can hardly endure the bodily fatigue of simply climbing up and down the various stair-cases, hills, rocks, &c., much less can the mind take in and appreciate the various objects of interest which necessarily present themselves in such quick succession, when *endeavoring* to see the whole of Niagara in a day.

It is a common custom for visiters on arriving at Niagara, to hasten, immediately upon alighting from their

Directions to Travellers.

conveyance, to catch a first glimpse at the mighty cataract; and this view may in all probability be one of the least attractive—they feel disappointed—and wonder at the eulogium bestowed by other travellers, who have used more time and discretion, jump into the first car that leaves, and——praise the falls, *because every one else does*, not because they have witnessed or appreciated its beauties themselves!

Should you arrive on the American side, you will of course stop at one of the Hotels, of which the principal are the CATARACT HOTEL, kept by P. Whitney & Sons, and the EAGLE HOTEL, by C. B. Griffen & Co., both of which are excellent houses. After recovering in some measure from the fatigue of your journey, take the street to the right around either of the Hotels, and proceed a few rods, to the bridge that leads across the rapids to Bath and Goat Islands; you will stop at the toll-house on Bath Island when you pass over, record your name in the register and pay twenty-five cents, which entitles you to visit all the islands, with their appendages, as often as you please during your visit, or for the year, without any additional charge. And if you choose to cross in a carriage, you pay no more. Proceed next to Goat Island, where you will find guide-boards directing you to all the most interesting places and objects around the island. Follow the gravel walks at the right, down

Directions to Travellers.

to the cascade or centre fall, and cross a narrow bridge to Luna Island, from the farther corner of which you will have the best and most splendid view of the falls on the American side. Retracing your steps to the gravel walk, proceed next to the Biddle Stair-case ; *descend that without fail*, as you will there have a magnificent and much admired view of the two entire falls, standing between them, and an opportunity, if the wind be favorable, of passing a considerable distance behind either sheet, with the tremendous flood pouring over you from a height of 150 feet. From the foot of the stair-case, turn first to the right and go to the Cave of the Winds, under the centre fall, and in returning, follow the path to the great Crescent fall.

Reaching the top of the island again, proceed to the farther corner, where you will find the Stone Tower, forty-five feet high, with winding steps to the top, and also the Terrapin Bridge, from both which places you will have decidedly the best and most impressive views of the falls, that can be had from any position. Here you will realize power, grandeur, sublimity, immensity, — no pen or tongue can describe it.

Pursuing your way with a view to go entirely round the island, — as you ought without fail to do, inasmuch as you will thus get a much better view of the rapids and surrounding scenery than can be obtained any

Directions to Travellers.

where else, — you will proceed up to a beautiful cascade where, under the shelter in part of a projecting rock, you can have an opportunity to bathe in the sparkling foam of Niagara.

“ This is the purest exercise of health,
The kind refresher of the summer heats.”

A rustic bridge was here to give you access to the Moss islands, which are well worthy a visit. Just above these islands you have the very best view of the rapids, that is presented from any place about the falls. Proceeding round the head of the island, you cross the place nearly opposite the saw-mill, where a number of human skeletons have been dug up, — supposed to be the former site of an Indian burying ground.

If your visit is protracted at the Falls, you should pass around and through Goat Island by the different paths in order to observe its picturesque beauty and realize its thousand attractions. You ought also, if time permit, to visit the site of old Fort Schlosser, the Mineral Spring, the Whirlpool, the Devil's Hole, &c., to all which places the coach drivers will conduct you, and give such information and directions as you may need.

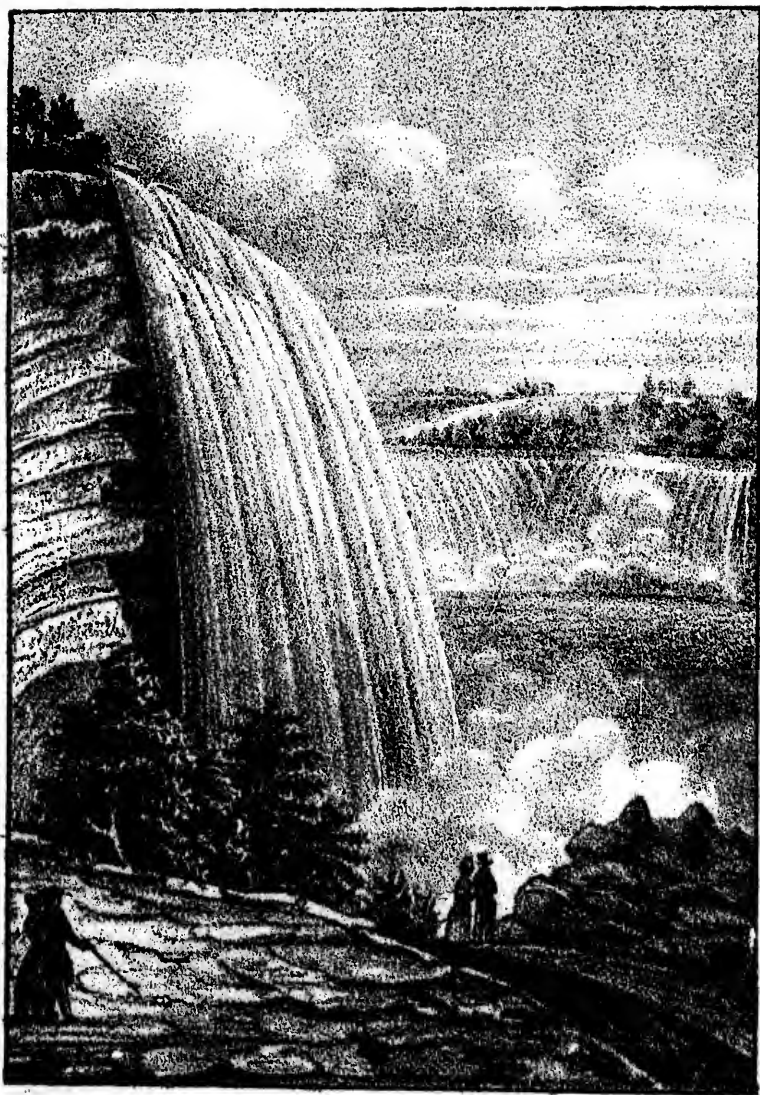
In order to cross the river, proceed from the bridge to the stair-case, near the edge of the falls, at the foot of

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American Street from foot of the Staircase

Directions to Travellers.

which you will have a very near view of the highest fall and a most charming prospect of the entire falls.

“ Above, around, beneath, amazement all !
Terror and glory joined in their extremes !”

Take a look from the window of the stair-case and you will realize the truth of Shakspeare's description,—

“ How fearful
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low !
I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong.”

In crossing the river, not the least danger need be apprehended ; it is a perfectly safe and most delightful excursion, and persons sometimes swim across without difficulty. The time occupied in crossing is ordinarily about eight minutes, and the ferriage is $18\frac{1}{4}$ cents, from May to November; and 25 cents from November to May. If you have trunks or other baggage to be transported from either side to the other, the ferryman will convey them safely, at a reasonable charge. The river is here 76 rods wide, and 250 feet deep.

Having crossed the river, you proceed up the bank by a carriage road, at the head of which stands the Clifton House: here you can refresh yourself, and proceed to—

Directions to Travellers.

wards the Table Rock ; about half way between the Hotel and Table Rock, stands the very interesting MUSEUM of Mr. Barnett, which visitors should by no means fail to visit. This gentleman, (Mr. Barnett) has spent years in the collection of his museum, and an examination of its contents will amply prove that the time has not been spent uselessly. A more extended notice of this museum will be found at page 48. Proceed from the museum to Table Rock, where you will find a spiral stair-case, from the foot of which you can pass 153 feet behind the sheet of water. This stair-case is under the care of Mr. Starkey, who furnishes dresses and a guide for visitors who wish to go behind the sheet; he also keeps a reading-room, and a neat and inviting shop of refreshments. An examination of the Albums in the establishment of Mr. Starkey, will be found amusing, as well as interesting.

From Table Rock you have one broad and imposing view of the whole falls, and much of the scenery of the rapids and islands. It is generally conceded that this view, and that from the Terrapin Bridge, are the best, and combine more of the beautiful and sublime, than can be obtained from any other point on either side of the river.

In ascending the bank from Table Rock to the Hotels, you have a fine and extensive view of the surrounding

Niagara River...Its Sources.

country, and can visit Lundy's Lane, Brock's Monument, &c., as you may have leisure or inclination.

If you arrive first on the Canada side, proceed directly to Table Rock, and when satisfied with viewing the amazing scene there, both from above and below, and have visited all the other objects of interest, follow the path to the Ferry, cross to the other side, and then visit Goat Island, as directed above.

To those who wish the services of a living guide in their rambles and excursions, Mr. S. Hooker, on the American side, offers himself; his house is near the Eagle Hotel. From a residence of twenty-two years at the Falls, he is enabled to conduct visitors to all the objects of interest, in the vicinity, and to give them much valuable information.

NIAGARA RIVER, ITS SOURCES, AND ISLANDS.

Niagara river, upon which the falls are situated, receives the water of all the upper lakes, as Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, Superior, and a number of smaller ones. The most distant source of the Niagara is probably the river St. Louis, which rises 1250 miles northwest of the Falls, and 150 miles west of Lake Superior ;

Niagara River . . . Its Sources.

it is 1200 feet above the level of the ocean, and falls 551 feet before it reaches the lake.

Lake Superior is 459 miles long, by 100 wide, and 900 feet deep: it is discharged into Lake Huron by the Strait St. Mary, 60 miles in length, making a descent of 45 feet. This lake receives the waters of about forty rivers. Lake Michigan is 300 miles by 50, and about 900 feet deep, and empties into Huron, through the Straits of Mackinac, 40 miles in length. Connected with Michigan on the southwest side, is Green Bay, 100 miles in length by about 20 in width. Lake Huron is 218 miles by 180, and 900 feet deep, and is discharged into Lake Erie, through the rivers St. Clair and Detroit, 90 miles, making a descent of 31 feet. Lake Erie is 290 miles by 63, and 120 feet deep, and 564 feet above the level of the sea. It empties itself through Niagara river, 35 miles in length, into Lake Ontario, making a descent of 334 feet, viz: From the lake to Schlosser, 12 feet; thence down the rapids, 52 feet; the perpendicular falls, 164 feet; from the falls to Lewiston, 104 feet; and thence to Lake Ontario, 2 feet.

Lake Ontario is 180 miles, by 31, and 500 feet deep, and discharges itself through the river St. Lawrence, into the Atlantic Ocean, 710 miles distant.

The four inland seas above the falls — as the great lakes may properly be called — with the hundreds of

Grand and Navy Island.

rivers great and small, that flow into them, cover a surface of 150,000 square miles, and contain nearly half the fresh water on the surface of the globe. From these sources of the Niagara, some idea may be formed of the immense quantity of water, that is constantly pouring over the falls.

Niagara river, as it flows from Lake Erie, is about three-fourths of a mile in width, and from twenty to forty feet deep; for three miles it has a rapid current, and then it becomes calm and smooth till within one mile of the falls.

“So calm;—the waters scarcely seem to stray,
And yet they glide like happiness away.”

Five miles from the lake the river begins to expand till it becomes more than eight miles in width, measured across Grand Island, and embraces before it reaches the falls, about forty islands. Of these largest are Grand and Navy. Navy Island, belonging to Canada, contains 304 acres of good land, and terminates near Chipewewa point. This Island has acquired some notoriety in consequence of being the resort, during the winter of 1837-8, of a large body of men, headed by William L. Mackenzie, whose object was a revolution in the government of Upper Canada. Batteries were erected upon the island, and considerable powder was burned in

White Haven . . . Timber Company.

exchanging compliments between the island and Chipewewa; but as far as we have learned, but one man was ever killed on the island. It was finally evacuated some time in January, 1838, and has since remained quietly in the possession of the British Government.

Grand Island commences five miles from the lake, is twelve miles in length, measured around its edge, and from three to six in width, and terminates three miles above the Falls, containing 17,384 acres. The land is well timbered, rich and productive. As the deepest channel of the river, forming the boundary line, runs on the west side, this island, until recently, belonged to the State of New-York; but in the year 1833, a company from Boston, purchased nearly the whole of the island, and have erected upon it, near the site of the famous Jewish city, Arrarat, (projected in 1825, by Major Noah, of New-York,) a steam grist-mill, and a saw-mill, 150 feet square, containing 15 sets or gangs of saws. This mill is intended to furnish ship stuff of every description, from 20 to 70 feet in length, and is probably one of the most extensive establishments of its kind in America. The name of their village is "White Haven," situated nearly opposite Tonawanda, where the Erie Canal locks into the Niagara river. It is approached by a ferry across the river, here 100 rods wide, and has increased, since Nov. 1833, from one solitary

Other Islands . . . The rise and fall of Niagara.

family to more than fifty ; it has also many work-shops, a store, a school-house, a commodious wharf, several hundred feet long, and a spacious dock made of piles, for storing and securing floating timber.

In July, 1759, during the old French war, two large French vessels, in danger of being taken by the British, were burnt and sunk in what is called Burnt Ship Bay, near the lower end of this island. Some parts of them are still visible ; and some years since, a party of men, by raking the river at that place, secured a number of tons of iron.

Among the other islands of the river, are Bird Island, between Buffalo and Fort Erie; Squaw Island, containing 131 acres, opposite Black Rock ; Strawberry Island, containing about 100 acres ; Beaver Island, of 30 acres ; Rattle Snake Island, of 48 acres ; Tonawanda Island, on which is the beautiful mansion of Stephen White, Esq., containing 69 acres ; Cayuga Island, near the New York shore, four miles above the Falls, containing about 100 acres ; Buck Horn Island, near the lower end of Grand and near Navy Islands, containing 146 acres ; and a number of smaller islands, in and immediately above the rapids, besides Goat Island, &c., hereafter to be described.

One feature in the Niagara river somewhat peculiar is, that neither the snows of winter, nor the evaporation of

The Rapids.

summer, neither rains nor drought, materially affect it ; its waters flow on, full and clear, perpetually the same ; except, as has long been observed, they have a small gradual rise and fall about once in seven years. The cause of this is unknown, but is undoubtedly to be sought in something affecting the upper lakes. Indeed, it has often been asserted by travellers, that the lakes have septennial fluxes and refluxes; it is also asserted by some that they have small diurnal tides. This however, may reasonably be doubted.

THE RAPIDS.

I must here apprise the reader, that it were vain to attempt a graphic description of the falls and surrounding scenery ; for they so immeasurably exceed every thing of the kind elsewhere seen or even imagined, that no power of language can give any adequate idea of them to those who have not been present to hear and see for themselves. Captain Basil Hall remarks, “ All parts of the Niagara are on a scale which baffles every attempt of the imagination, and it were ridiculous therefore, to think of describing it; the ordinary means of description, I mean analogy, and direct comparison, with things

The Rapids.

which are more accessible, fail entirely in the case of that amazing cataract, which is altogether unique."

"All the pictures you may see," says J. J. Audubon, "all the descriptions you may read, of these mighty falls, can only produce in your mind the faint glimmer of the glow worm, compared with the overpowering glory of the meridian sun."

These scenes which are sketched in the following pages, may be considered, therefore, only as a very faint outline, or shadow, of the reality.

Below the termination of Grand and Navy Islands, the river is compressed to the width of two and a half miles ; and pressing forward with accelerated motion, it commences, about three-fourths of a mile above the falls, a rapid descent, making within that distance a slope or succession of *chutes*, amounting to fifty-two feet on the American side, and fifty-seven on the other.—The tremendous and beautiful rapids thus formed, constitute a very important part of the grand and unparalleled curiosities of this river. Were they in any other place, they would of themselves be considered as a scene of great beauty and sublimity, equalled only by the ocean when lashed into foam and fury by the angry tempest. Many visitors express themselves more delighted, and unexpectedly filled with wonder, at seeing the rapids, than the falls themselves.

The Rapids . . . Roar of the Falls.

"Through sparkling spray in thundering clash,
The lightning of the water flash,
In awful whiteness o'er the shore,
That shines and shakes beneath the roar."

Two miles above the falls, in approaching from Buffalo, you come in sight of the white crested breakers, more than a mile in width, dashing, foaming, and tossing from ten to thirty feet above the main current : and at the same time hear a low, monotonous, tremendous roar; and as you approach nearer, feel a tremulous motion of the earth. The distance at which this roar can be heard varies, with the state of the atmosphere, ordinarily from five to twenty miles, though it is said to have been heard at Toronto, forty-five miles distant. And yet in the village near the falls, it is scarcely heard at all. The mist, arising like curling smoke, and separating as it rises into masses of fantastic clouds is seen at the distance of from three to twenty miles. This distance depends upon the state of the atmosphere, the height of the sun, and the force and direction of the wind. This mist sometimes rises in immense masses, and sometimes in a pyramidal shape to a very great height, and is an object of great curiosity, especially in the morning, soon after sunrise. It then sparkles like diamonds, and becomes illuminated with the most brilliant, prismatic colors.

Table Rock.

“Niagara! Niagara! I hear
Thy tumbling waters. And I see thee rear
Thy thundering sceptre to the clouded skies;
I see it wave—I hear the ocean rise,
And roll obedient to thy call. I hear
The tempest-hymning of thy flood in fear;
The quaking mountains and the nodding trees—
The reeling birds—and the careering breeze—
The tottering hills, unsteadied in thy roar;
Niagara! as thy dark waters pour,
One everlasting earthquake rocks thy lofty shore.”

From Table Rock, you have an extensive and picturesque view of the rapids; but they are seen to still better advantage from the bank of the river, half a mile above. They are also to be seen to very great advantage from the different sides of Goat Island. Indeed, the great variety of views of the rapids to be obtained from the island, renders it the most eligible place for viewing them. From the southwest corner of this island, just above the Moss islands, you have by far the best view that can be taken from any place. There is too, an amazing rush of water between the Moss islands, the force and sublimity of which may be conceived, but not described; and no tourist or traveller, who desires to behold one of the most wild and fantastic scenes in the vicinity of the great falls, should fail to visit this beautiful and interesting spot.

Goat Island.

GOAT, OR IRIS ISLAND.

Goat Island, is so called, from the circumstance, that about the year 1770, Mr. Steadman, then resident at Schlosser, contrived by some means to put a few goats upon the island ; but its more appropriate and adopted name is Iris Island. It commences near the head of the rapids, almost in the middle of the river, and extends to the precipice, dividing the falls into two sheets. It is half a mile in length, and one fourth of a mile in width, and contains seventy-five acres of rich and heavy timbered land. Situated in the midst of the rapids, and surrounded by them on three sides, this island is one of the most beautiful, fascinating and romantic places in the world; it affords a delightful retreat for "the lunatic, the lover, and the poet," to indulge in their meditations. Fanned by gentle breezes, thickly and delightfully shaded, free from noisome insects, encircled by a neat walk, and presenting to the visiter a great variety of views of the falls and rapids, he feels a reluctance on leaving it, and is wont to exclaim with Montgomery,

" If God hath made this world so fair,
Where sin and death abound ;
How beautiful, beyond compare,
Will Paradise be found !"

 Scenery . . . Earliest Dates . . . Indian Remains.

Or with Eve, in the language of Milton, —

“ Must I leave thee, Paradise ?

—— These happy walks and shades,

Fit haunt of Gods ? ”

About two-thirds of this island are still covered with tall trees, many of which are clothed with a magnificent drapery of ivy and other creeping plants, and many have been killed by reason of the countless names that have been cut into their bark. So strong is the desire of man for immortality, that few can resist the temptation to leave some memorial of their visit to the Falls. The earliest genuine date of any name yet found, is in the year 1769, though names have been cut within a few years, and *dated* back as early as 1745 ; but on the *rocks* near the falls on the American side, there are names chiselled out and dated 1711, 1726, 1745, &c. On Goat Island, a number of human skeletons have, within a few years, been dug up ; supposed to be the remains of Indians buried in a former age, and many more are doubtless now resting there in undisturbed repose. There may they rest, in nature's solitude, till the Great Spirit calls them hence. On this island is found a very great variety of wild plants, shrubs and flowers ; nearly two hundred different species, some of them very rare, have already been discovered. Of the *Tillium Grandiflora*,

Garden.

sixteen varieties are found here. The seeds of plants and flowers, from the shores of all the upper lakes and rivers, have probably been washed upon this island.—Some years since, a number of deer were put upon this island, which soon became quite tame ; but visiters, in order to see them leap, would occasionally frighten them, when they would immediately betake themselves to the rapids, and thus were carried over the falls, until all were finally destroyed.

Judge Porter, the proprietor of the island, has had it in contemplation to lay out upon it a spacious Garden, in which all the plants and fruits adapted to this genial climate, should be cultivated. When this and other projected improvements shall be completed, no other spot on this earth, perhaps, will present attractions equal to this celebrated and beautiful island. The approach to it is from the American side, by means of a bridge of the most difficult and hazardous construction, which extends from the shore, 28 rods, to Bath Island, and thence 16 rods further, to Goat Island.

There are many other beautiful islands situated among the rapids of this river, a number of which, as Bath, Ship, and Luna are, and all the rest might be, connected with Goat Island by bridges, and afford the most charming and impressive views of the surrounding scenery. On Bath Island, which is 24 rods in length, containing

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The American Falls from Goat Island

Toll House . . . Centre Fall.

about two acres, is the Toll House, kept by Mr. A. B. Jacobs, who keeps an excellent house of refreshment, and has for sale one of the best collection of Indian curiosities, geological specimens, walking canes, &c. &c. which are to be found at the Falls.

On this island is situated Porter's extensive Paper Mill, three stories high, where is manufactured yearly large quantities of paper. The paper on which this work is printed, was manufactured at this mill.

Luna Island, about 30 yards in width, stands directly on the precipice near Goat Island, and divides the stream, a part of which forms the most splendid cascade, perhaps in the world. This is about twenty-two yards in width, and is sometimes called the "Centre Fall," to distinguish it from the other two main sheets. Approaching this island from the foot of what is called, from the shape of the path, the "Hog's Back," visitors have, from the northwest corner, a much better view of the American fall than can be obtained from any other place. This fall, like the other, has evidently changed its shape within a few years, and has now nearly as much of a resemblance to a horse shoe as the other.

There are ten other islands in the rapids besides those above mentioned, containing perhaps from one-fourth to an acre each, to all of which bridges might, probably, be constructed.

Terrapin Bridge and Tower . . . Height of the Falls.

THE FALLS — TERRAPIN BRIDGE AND TOWER.

The broad river, as it comes thundering and foaming down the declivity of the rapids, at length leaps the cataract, three-fourths of a mile in width, and falls, as it were, to the central caves of the earth. The mind, filled with amazement, recoils at the spectacle, and loses for a moment, its equilibrium. The trembling of the earth, the mighty rush and conflict, and deafening roar of the water, the clouds of mist sparkling with rainbows, produce an effect upon the beholder, often quite overpowering; and it is only after the scene has become somewhat familiar to the eye, the ear, and the imagination, that its real grandeur and sublimity is properly realized and felt.

“To sit on rocks, to muse on flood and field,
To slowly trace the forest’s shady scene,
Where things that own not man’s dominion dwell,
And mortal foot hath ne’er or rarely been.
* * * * *
Alone o’er steps and foaming falls to lean;
This is not solitude; ’tis but to hold
Converse with nature’s charms, and see her stores unrolled.”

The water on the American side, as ascertained by frequent measurement, falls 164 feet, and on the Canada

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The British full from Goat Island.—

 Tower and Bridge . . . Solar Bow.

side, 158 feet. The fall on the Canada side, embracing much the largest channel of the river, is called, from the shape of the precipice, the "Crescent, or Horse Shoe Fall," and near to this a bridge, called the Terrapin Bridge, has been constructed, 300 feet in length, from Goat Island, and projecting ten feet over the falls. Near the termination of this bridge, in the water, and on the very verge of the precipice, a stone tower, forty-five feet high, with winding steps to the top, was erected in the year 1833, from which, or from the end of the bridge, the effect of the falls upon the beholder is most awfully sublime, and utterly indescribable. The sublime, arising from obscurity, is here experienced in its greatest force. The eye, unable to discover the bottom of the falls, or even to penetrate the mist that seems to hang as a veil over the amazing and terrific scene, gives place to the imagination, and the mind is instinctively elevated and filled with majestic dread. Here is

"All that expands, yet appals."

"And such was that rainbow, that beautiful one,
Whose arch was refraction, its key-stone—the sun ;
A pavilion it seemed with a Deity graced,
And justice and mercy met there and embraced."

The solar and lunar bows, the river above and below,
and indeed the whole scenery of the falls and rapids,

Tower and Bridge.

appear to better advantage from this point than from any other; and no visiter on either side should presume to leave the Falls without visiting the tower and bridge. From the top of the tower especially, he will realize the force and beauty of the following description, which with the change of a single word, applies admirably to this matchless scene :

“ The roar of waters ! From the headlong height
 Niagara cleaves the wave-worn precipice ;
 The fall of waters ! rapid as the light,
 The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss ;
 The hell of waters ! where they howl and hiss,
 And boil in endless torture ; while the sweet
 Of their great agony, wrung out from this
 Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks of jet
 That gird the gulf around, in pitiless horror set.
 And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again
 Returns in an unceasing shower, which round
 With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain
 Is an eternal April to the ground,
 Making it all one emerald ; — how profound
 The gulf ! — and how the giant element
 From rock to rock leaps with delirious bound,
 Crushing the cliffs, which downward worn and rent,
 With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a fearful vent.

* * * * *

* * * * * Look back !

Lo ! where it comes like an eternity,
 As if to sweep down all things in its track,

Lunar Bow . . . Romantic Incident.

Charming the eye with dread, — a matchless cataract,
Horribly beautiful! but on the verge,
From side to side, beneath the glittering morn,
An Iris sits, amid the infernal surge,
Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, unworn
It steady dies, while all around is torn
By the distracted waters, bears serene
Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn,
Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene,
Love watching Madness with unalterable mien."

The lunar bow, seen at night, in the time of full moon, appears like a brightly illuminated arch, reaching from side to side, and is an object of great attraction, — especially as the world presents but few other places where such a bow is ever seen,

"Hung on the curling mist, the moonlight bow
Arches the perilous river."

Goat Island, in a moonlight night, is the resort of great multitudes, and is a scene of unrivalled beauty and magnificence. The rapids at such a time sparkle with phosphoric splendor, and nature around wears an irresistible charm of loveliness. There is

"A silver light, which hallowing tree and tower,
Sheds beauty and deep softness o'er the whole."

The writer once had the pleasure of joining a lovely couple in marriage, about eleven o'clock on one of the

Biddle Stair - Case.

brightest nights he has ever known, in full view of this enchanting scene, and then of taking a romantic excursion with the party around the island. This was poetry indeed ; it was one of those bright and verdant oases sometimes met with in the journey of life.

BIDDLE STAIR-CASE — ÆOLUS CAVE.

At the lower end of Goat Island, about one third across it, a stair-case, erected in the year 1829, at the expense of Nicholas Biddle, Esq., of Philadelphia, gives visitors an opportunity of descending below the bank, and of passing a considerable distance behind the two main sheets of water. The descent from the top of the island to the margin of the river, is 185 feet. A common flight of steps leads down 40 feet, to the perpendicular spiral steps, 90 in number, which are enclosed in a building in the shape of a hexagon resting on a firm foundation at the bottom. From the foot of the building, there are three paths leading to the most important points of observation, one of which leads to the river below, 80 feet, where visitors will find one of the finest fishing places in this part of the world. All the varieties of fish existing in Lake Ontario, are found here,

Cave of the Winds . . . Passage behind the Falls.

among which are sturgeon, pike, pickerel, black and white bass, herring, cat-fish, eels, &c. Here was Sam Patch's jumping place. The path at the left of the stair-case leads to the great Crescent fall, where, when the wind blows up the river, a safe and delightful passage is opened behind the sheet of water.

The path to the right leads to a magnificent Cave, appropriately named when it was first discovered, twenty seven years since, *Æolus' Cave*, or *Cave of the Winds*. This cave is about 120 feet across, 50 feet wide, and 100 feet high ; it is situated directly behind the Centre fall, which at the bottom is more than 100 feet wide, and were the rocks excavated a little and a few steps made, visitors could safely pass into and entirely through the cave behind the sheet of water. Beyond this cave, at the foot of Luna Island, there is an open space where persons may amuse themselves at leisure upon the rocks over which the floods are pouring, and then venture in as far as they please behind the whole American fall.

The writer of these pages first conceived the idea of effecting an entrance into this cave, July 14, 1834, while passing in front of the American fall in a boat, and the next day it was effected, for the first time, by Messrs. Berry H. White and George Sims, both residents at the Falls, who passed round the outside of the falls, and landed at the foot of Luna Island. Accompanying

Passage behind the Falls . . . Rainbow.

the above idea, was a project of passing behind the whole American fall, 56 rods, and coming out near the ferry. This passage, though not yet effected, is believed to be possible ; for the opening between the sheet of water as it falls, and the rock behind is from 15 to 50 feet wide, and there are rocks to walk upon through the whole distance. If there be any insurmountable obstacle, it will probably be found in the tremendous wind and spray occasioned by the falling flood. A passage into the cave was at first considered a great exploit, but a passage behind the whole sheet would be inconceivably greater. The cave itself, is the *ne plus ultra* of wonders, a visit to which no person of sufficient nerve, ought to omit. Ladies and gentlemen can very often, when the wind blows down the river, pass a considerable distance behind the sheet of water within the cave, without getting wet at all. The view presented to a person while in the cave, in connexion with the tremendous and astounding roar of waters, which, owing to the echoes or reverberations, is apparently a hundred times greater here than any where else, will enable him to appreciate the following beautiful and graphic lines of Brainard, — especially as there is always, in the afternoon, when the sun shines, a very bright rainbow visible directly within the cave, and behind the sheet of water.

Extract from Brainard.

"The thoughts are strange that crowd into my brain,
While I look upwards to thee. It would seem
As if God poured thee from his hollow hand,
And hung his bow upon thy awful front,
And spoke in that loud voice, which seemed to him
Who dwelt in Patmos for his Saviour's sake,
'The sound of many waters;' and had bade
Thy flood to chronicle the ages back,
And notch His centuries in the eternal rocks.

Deep calleth unto deep. And what are we,
That hear the question of that voice sublime?
Oh! what are the notes that ever rung
From war's vain trumpet by thy thundering side?
Yea, what is all the riot man can make
In his short life, to thy unceasing roar?
And yet, bold babbler, what art thou to Him
Who drowned a world, and heaped the waters far
Above its loftiest mountains? — a light wave,
That breaks and whispers of its Maker's might."

How little and insignificant do the efforts of man appear, when measured by this exhibition of Omnipotence! The earthquake, the volcano, the wide spread conflagration, the shock of contending armies, are sublime and terrific spectacles, though short in their continuance and limited in their effects; but here, ever since the flood, probably, the deafening and incessant roar of the mightiest cataract on the globe has called upon the children of men to fall down and adore their Maker.

Ferry to the Canada Falls.

THE FERRY.

There is another stair-case leading down the bank, about six rods below the falls, where visitors will find a safe ferry to the Canada side, and have an opportunity of viewing a scene of surpassing grandeur. The deep green glassy river beneath, the awful precipice of rocks, and the mighty floods rolling and tumbling from the heights above, and the singularly wild, romantic and variegated scenery around, fill the mind of the beholder with sensations not to be described. Here one may perceive the propriety and beauty of the figure representing Him, who is the "Rock of ages," as "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," to those who fly to him for refuge.

"While viewing thee
I think how grand and beautiful is God,
When man has not intruded on his works,
But left his bright creation unimpaired.

Blessed scenes !

* * * it is no mortal touch

That sharpened thy rough brow, or fringed thy skirts
With coarse luxuriance ; — 'twas the lightning's force
Dashed its strong flash across thee, and did point
The crag ; or, with his stormy thunderbolt,
The Almighty Architect himself disjoined
Yon rock ; then flung it down where now it hangs,
And said, do thou lie there."

City of the Falls.

The ferryman, Mr. S. L. Ware, on the American, and Mr. J. Shultersburgh, on the Canada side, are both very civil and accommodating, well acquainted with their business, and able to give much information to visitors. Whenever required, they take parties out on pleasure or fishing excursions, and thus enable them to take a more extensive view of the gorgeous river scenery. The construction of a carriage road is contemplated, down these perpendicular banks, so as to have a ferry for teams and carriages; and when it is completed, must become a great and important thoroughfare for travellers.

CANADA VIEWS—CITY OF THE FALLS.

Directly opposite the Falls on the Canada side, an enterprising Company, a few years since, purchased the grounds formerly owned by Mr. Forsyth, projected and laid out a city, which they called "The City of the Falls," and have made some improvements. They intended to have schools, churches, libraries, ball and promenade rooms, baths, public gardens, and indeed, every thing considered necessary to an elegant and fashionable city. The lots and streets are laid out with

Clifton . . . New Hotel.

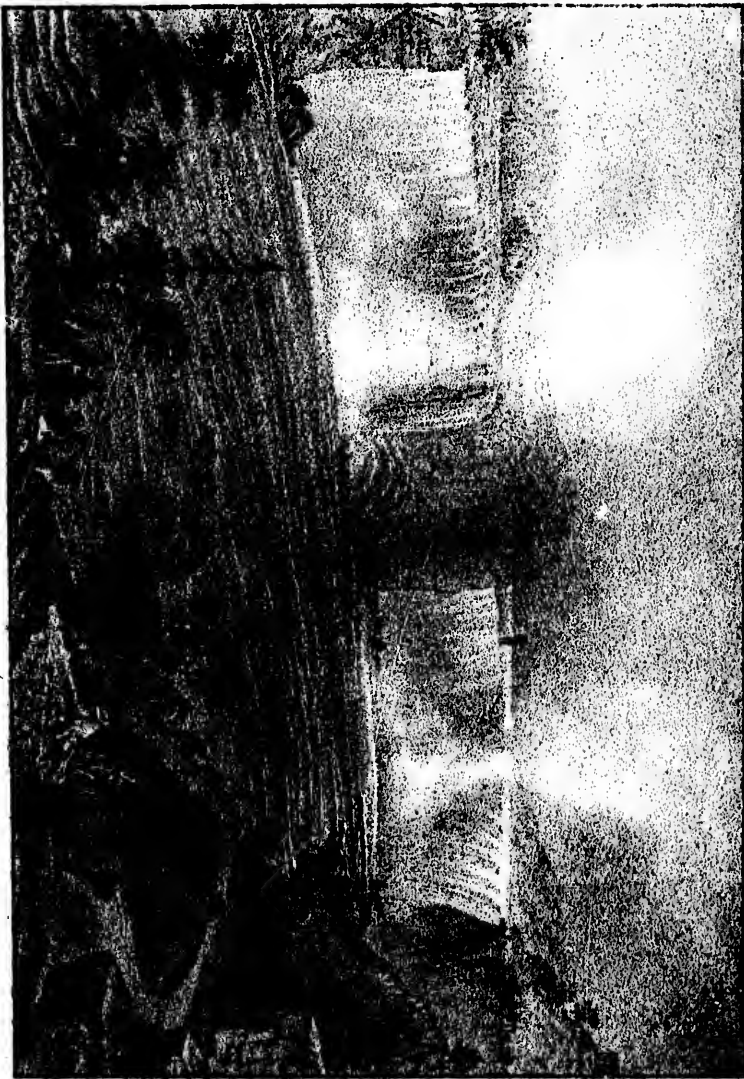
much judgment and taste ; but whether the anticipations of the enterprising projectors will ever be realized, other generations must tell.

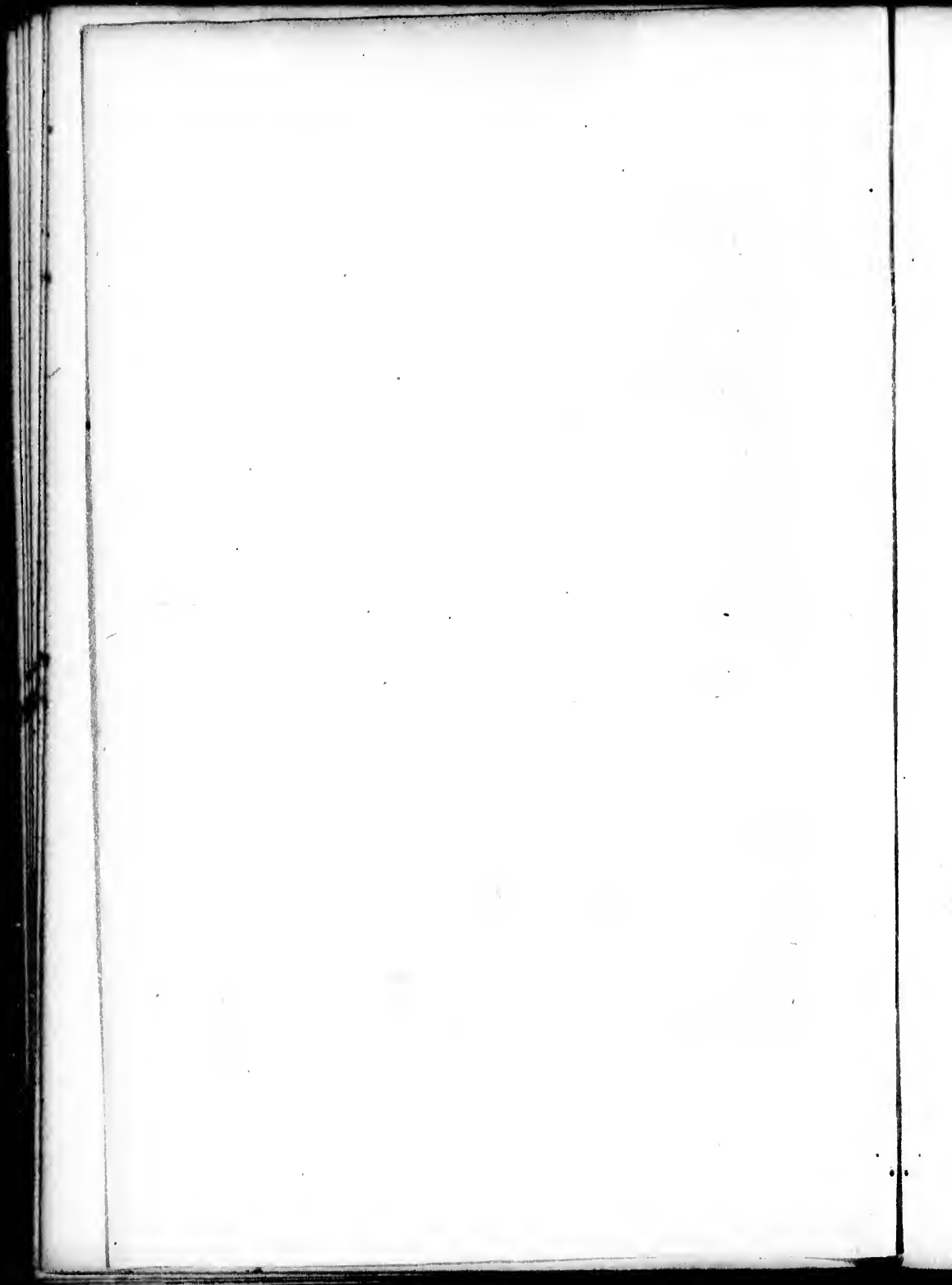
The table land on the river's bank below the falls, and opposite the ferry, owned by Capt. Creighton, has also been surveyed into lots for a village, which is called " Clifton ;" and here, directly at the top of the ferry road, stands the Clifton House, erected by Mr. Chrysler, which contains upwards of sixty rooms, and will accommodate nearly one hundred guests. This is a very delightful site for a village, and is one of the most pleasant places of resort on that side of the river. The following stanza of Byron, is beautifully descriptive of this place :

" From thy shady brow,
Thou small, but favored spot of holy ground !
Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,
What rainbow tints, what magic charms are found !
Rock, river, forest, mountain all abound,
And bluest skies that harmonize the whole ;
Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound
Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll
Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet please the soul."

In ascending the high bank, the visiter is presented with some delightful views of the falls and rapids, and of the surrounding country. The two principal Hotels,

Niagara Falls from near Chifton house.





Appearance of the surrounding country.

on the Canada side, are the Ontario House, on the high bank nearly opposite the great fall, and the Clifton House, at the head of the carriage road, both of which have ample accommodations. The Pavilion was totally destroyed by fire, in February, 1839.

Strangers who have never visited the Falls, have an idea that the surrounding country must be mountainous, like that in the vicinity of most other falls; but the general aspect of the country here for a great extent on both sides of the river, above and below, is that of an almost perfect level, and nothing indicates the existence of the river or the falls, except the constantly ascending and floating mist, and a subterraneous, thundering roar. Below the falls, the earth and rocks appear as though they had been suddenly rent asunder and separated one-fourth of a mile apart, in order, by the perpendicular chasm thus made, to form a channel for the river. The corresponding portions of rock are as regular in the succession of their strata, as would be the leaves and cover of a book, if they were bisected and placed opposite each other. The whole country in Canada, between the two lakes, except a narrow strip bordering upon Lake Ontario, is generally level, rich and productive, and is also becoming quite populous. In visiting the Canada side, you can cross the river at Black Rock, Lewiston, or at the Falls; and can always have carriages on that side to

Welland Canal.

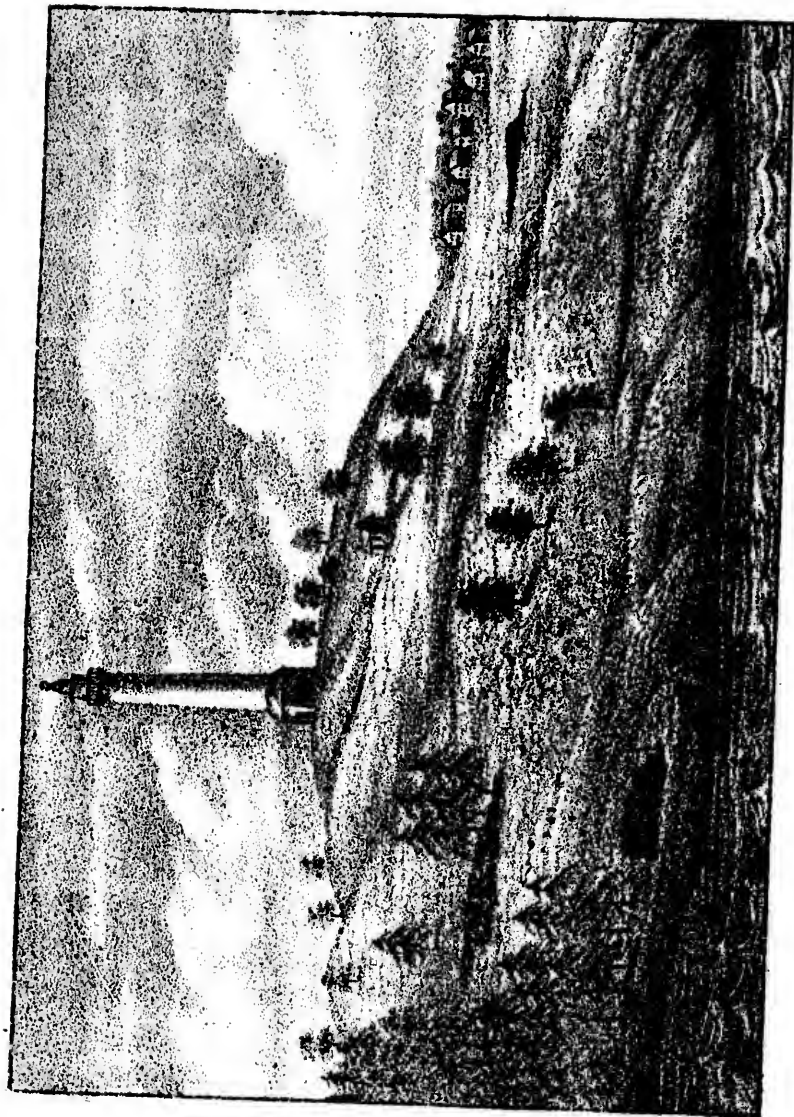
transport you whither you choose. Stage Coaches run from the Hotels to Queenston and Niagara, daily ; also to Chippewa and Buffalo. From Chippewa, the steamboat Red Jacket runs daily to Buffalo, leaving Chippewa in the afternoon. No one should fail of visiting the Canada side, as this grand and unparalleled scene of nature's wonders, the fame whereof is spread over the world, should be viewed and contemplated from every position.

WELLAND CANAL.

Eight miles west from the Falls is the Welland Canal, connecting the waters of Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, and affording a passage for sloops and schooners of 125 tons burthen. This canal commences at Port Maitland, near the mouth of Grand River, on Lake Erie, 48 miles west of Buffalo. It runs in a straight line across Wainfleet Marsh, crosses the Chippewa river by means of an aqueduct, and enters Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Twelve Mile Creek. It is 42 miles in length, 56 feet in width, and varies from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 feet in depth. The whole descent from one lake to another, 334 feet, is ac-

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Brook's Monument & Quindston from the American shore.

 Brock's Monument.

complished by means of 37 locks. At the deep-cut, on what is called the mountain ridge, the excavation is 45 feet in depth ; and 1,477,700 cubic feet of earth, and 1,890,000 cubic feet of rock were removed. The locks here are 22 by 100 feet, and west of this ridge they are 45 by 125 feet. The canal was commenced in the year 1824, and completed in five years, and cost over \$1,000,000. A part of the stock is owned by individuals in the State of New-York. The company own all the land along the line of the canal, including the hydraulic privileges ; and another tract, containing about 16,000 acres, has been granted to them by the British Government.

 BROCK'S MONUMENT.

Six miles and a half north from the Falls, upon Queenston Heights, is General Brock's Monument, constructed of free stone, 126 feet high, and admitting an ascent to the top by a flight of 170 winding steps. From this eminence, the country around, including the picturesque lake and river scenery, may be seen for fifty miles. The following is the inscription on this Monument :

Burning Spring.

“The Legislature of Upper Canada has dedicated this Monument to the many civil and military services of the late Sir James Brock, Knight, Commander of the most Honorable Order of the Bath, Provincial Lieutenant Governor and Major General, Commanding His Majesty's forces therein. He fell in action, on the 13th of Oct., 1812, honored and beloved by those whom he governed, and deplored by his Sovereign, to whose services his life had been devoted. His remains are deposited in this vault, as also his Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant Colonel John McDonald, who died of his wounds the 14th of Oct., 1812, received the day before, in action.”

BURNING SPRING.

One mile above the Falls, near the rapids, on the Canada side, is the Burning Spring. This is in a state of constant ebullition, and from it issues a stream of sulphurated hydrogen gas, which quickly ignites on the touch of a candle, and burns with a brilliant flame. The spring is enclosed in a barrel, which collects the gas and lets it through a tube inserted at the top. This gas might, without doubt, be communicated by pipes to

Stair - Case.

neighboring buildings, and substituted for candles and lamps. The keeper of the spring, Mr. J. Conklin, expects a small fee from visitors, for his trouble. There are strong indications at this Spring of a bed of coal near, but no effort has yet been made to discover it.

STAIR - CASE.

At the falls, near Table Rock, is a spiral stair-case, constructed for the purpose of enabling visitors to descend and pass behind the sheet of water, to Termination Rock. The entrance behind the great sheet looks somewhat formidable, and sometimes deters visitors from making the attempt, but when it is accomplished, which is frequently done by ladies, the views behind this immense sheet are awfully sublime and terrific, and will fully repay the adventurous lover of the wonderful in nature, for the thorough drenching which he will receive and which constitutes all the danger of the attempt.

Mr. Starkey, who keeps an excellent house of refreshment, and a cabinet of minerals here, is very accommodating to visitors, and when desired, furnishes them with a dress and guide to facilitate their passage behind the falls. This place is extensively known, and much frequented.

Museum.

MUSEUM.

A few rods from this stair-case, and very beautifully situated, is Mr. Barnett's Museum of natural and artificial curiosities ;—an establishment well worthy of patronage. The rooms are arranged very tastefully, so as to represent a forest scene, and contains upwards of 5000 specimens of various kinds and descriptions. There are bipeds and quadrupeds; birds, fishes, insects, reptiles, shells, minerals and Indian curiosities ; all calculated to delight the eye, improve the understanding, and mend the heart. Of the birds, beasts, fishes, and insects, several hundred species were caught in the vicinity of the Falls. The noblest eagles of the land delight to hover around the falls ; and here they are frequently killed, stuffed, and offered for sale. A large collection of living rattle-snakes may also be seen here. Mr. Barnett also keeps an excellent house of refreshment, and a large assortment of Indian curiosities and geological specimens for sale, and is very polite and attentive to visitors.

One of the very best general views of the falls, is to be obtained from the piazzas of this museum, and a view through a prism, which is kept there, is extremely beautiful and interesting.

Summer and Winter Scenery.

SUMMER AND WINTER SCENERY.

The surrounding scenery on both sides of the river is in good keeping with the magnificence of the falls. It is just what it should be, — grand, striking and unique. By most visitors it is only seen in summer. But in the winter it is also inimitable and indescribably beautiful. The trees and shrubbery on Goat and other islands, and on the banks of the river near the falls, are covered with transparent sleet, presenting an appearance of “icy brilliants,” or rather of millions of glittering chandeliers of all sizes and descriptions, and giving one a most vivid idea of fairy land.

“For every shrub and every blade of grass,
And every pointed thorn seems wrought in glass;
The frightened birds the rattling branches shun,
Which wave and glitter in the distant sun.”

The scene presents a splendid counterpart to Goldsmith's description of the subterranean grottos of Paros and Antiparos. The mist from the falls freezes upon the trees so gradually and to such thickness, that it often bears a most exact resemblance to alabaster; and this,

Winter Scenery.

set off by the dazzling colors of the rainbows that arch the river from twenty different points, seems by natural association, to raise the imagination to that world, where the streets are of pure gold, the gates of pearl, and night is unknown.

“Look, the massy trunks
Are cased in the pure crystal ; branch and twig
Shine in the lucid covering ; each light rod,
Nodding and twinkling in the stirring breeze,
Is studded with its trembling water-drops,
Still streaming, as they move, with colored light.
But round the parent stem, the long, low boughs
Bend in a glittering ring, or arbors hide
The glassy floor. O ! you might deem the spot
The spacious cavern of some virgin mine,
Deep in the womb of earth, where the gems grow !
And diamonds put forth radiant rods, and bud
With amethyst and topaz, and the place
Lit up most royally with the pure beam
That dwells in them ; or, haply, the vast hall
Of fairy palace, that outlasts the night,
And fades not in the glory of the sun ;
Where crystal columns send forth slender shafts,
And crossing arches, and fantastic aisles
Wind from the sight in brightness, and are lost
Among the crowded pillars.”

The winter scenery about the falls is peculiar, a sight of which is worth a journey of thousands of miles.

Wild Ducks . . . Eagles.

Myriads of wild ducks and geese spend the day in and above the rapids, and regularly take their departure for Lake Ontario every night before dark ; though some are often found in the morning with a broken leg or wing, and sometimes dead, in the river below the falls. This generally happens after a very dark or foggy night; and it is supposed that, as they always have their heads up stream, while in the water, they are carried down insensibly by the rapids, till they find themselves going over the precipice, and then in attempting to fly, they dive into the sheet of water, and are buried for a time under the falls, or dashed upon the rocks.

Dead fish too, of almost all sizes and descriptions, and weighing from one to seventy pounds, are found floating in the eddies below the falls, forming a dainty repast for gulls, loons, hawks and eagles. The splendid gyrations of the gulls, and their fearless approaches, enveloped in clouds of mist, up to the boiling cauldron directly under the falls, attract much attention. But the eagle, fierce, daring, contemplative, and tyrannical, takes his stand upon the point of some projecting rock, or the dry limb of a gigantic tree, and watches with excited interest the movements of the whole feathered tribes below. Standing there in lordly pride and dignity, in an instant his eye kindles and his ardor rises as he sees the fish-hawk emerge from the deep, screaming with exultation at his

River below the Falls.

success. He darts forth like lightning, and gives furious chase. The hawk, perceiving his danger, utters a scream of despair and drops his fish; and the eagle instantly seizes the fish in the air, and bears his ill-gotten booty to his lofty eyrie.

Sometimes during a part of the winter, the ice is driven by the wind from Lake Erie, and poured over the falls in such immense quantities as to fill and block up the river between the banks, for a mile or more, to the depth of from thirty to fifty feet, so that people cross the ice to Canada, on foot, for weeks together: the river itself is never frozen over, either above or below the falls, but it affords an outlet for vast quantities of ice from the upper lakes.

RIVER BELOW THE FALLS.

The river at the falls, is a little over three-fourths of a mile in width, but below, it is immediately compressed into a narrow channel of less than one-fourth of a mile in width: its depth, as ascertained by sounding, is about 250 feet. Its color is deep green, and sometimes blue; occasioned, no doubt, by reflection from the sky.

Point View . . . Channel . . . Earliest Discoveries.

One of the best general views of the falls and river below, is from a projecting rock, about a mile below the village, sometimes called Point View. The perpendicular rock is here 200 feet above the river, and from the verge of the dizzy height is to be obtained the most complete and extensive view of the entire falls, the river below, and its rocky and precipitous banks, that can be obtained from any other position.

For about two miles below the falls, the river is comparatively smooth; it then runs with amazing velocity to Lewiston; and, what is remarkable, while the river makes a constant descent, the banks have a gradual ascent for 6 miles; so that from the top of the bank to the water, at Brock's Monument, near Queenston, is 370 feet; and the heights there are 38 feet higher than Lake Erie, and 25 feet higher than the land at Schlosser. Whether the bed of the river here was once a natural ravine, or was formed by an earthquake, or worn away by the continued and violent action of the water falling upon the rocks—thus carrying the falls back from Queenston to their present situation, it would be difficult to determine with certainty.

From descriptions of the falls written nearly two hundred years ago, we learn, that though their *shape* has been somewhat altered since, they then occupied the place which they hold now, and exhibited the same

Remarks of Hennepin, Tonti, Hontan, etc.

wonderful phenomena. When and by whom among the whites they were first discovered, the writer has never yet been able to ascertain. Tradition ascribes their discovery to two missionaries, who were on an exploring tour to this part of the country, in an age anterior to any written account extant.

REMARKS OF HENNEPIN, TONTI, HONTAN, ETC.

Father Hennepin, who visited this place in December, 1678, thus describes the falls: "Betwixt the Lakes Ontario and Erie, there is a vast and prodigious cadence of water, which falls down after a surprising and astonishing manner, insomuch that the universe does not afford its parallel. 'Tis true, Italy and Suedeland boast of some such things, but we may well say that they are but sorry patterns, when compared with this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible precipice, we meet with the river Niagara, which is not above a quarter of a league broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this descent, that it violently hurries down the wild beasts while endeavoring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to with-

Earliest Discoveries.

stand the force of its current, which inevitably casts them headlong above six hundred feet high.

“This wonderful downfall is compounded of two great cross streams of water, and two falls, with an isle sloping along the middle of it. The waters which fall from this horrible precipice, do foam and boil after the most hideous manner imaginable, making an outrageous noise, more terrible than that of thunder; for when the wind blows out of the south, their dismal roaring may be heard more than fifteen leagues off.

“The river Niagara having thrown itself down this incredible precipice, continues its impetuous course for two leagues together, to the Great Rock above mentioned, with an inexpressible rapidity; but having passed that, its impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for other two leagues, till it arrives at the Lake Ontario or Frontenac.

“Any barque or greater vessel may pass from the Fort to the foot of this huge rock, above mentioned. This rock lies to the westward, and is cut off from the land by the river Niagara, about two leagues further down than the Great Fall; for which two leagues the people are obliged to transport their goods over land; but the way is very good, and the trees are but few, chiefly firs and oaks.

“From the Great Fall unto this rock, which is to the west of the river, the two brinks of it are so prodigious

Earliest Discoveries.

high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the water, rolling along with a rapidity not to be imagined. Were it not for this vast cataract, which interrupts navigation, they might sail with barques or greater vessels more than four hundred and fifty leagues, crossing the Lake of Huron, and reaching even to the further end of the Lake Illinois ; which two lakes we may easily say are little seas of fresh water.

“ After we had rowed above an hundred and forty leagues upon the Lake Erie, by reason of the many windings of the bays and creeks which we were forced to coast, we passed by the Great Fall of Niagara, and spent half a day in considering the wonders of that prodigious cascade.

“ I could not conceive how it came to pass, that four great lakes, the least of which is four hundred leagues in compass, should empty themselves one into another, and then all centre and discharge themselves at this Great Fall, and yet not drown good part of America. What is yet more surprising, the ground from the mouth of the Lake Erie down to the Great Fall, appears almost level and flat. It is scarce discernable that there is the least rise or fall for six leagues together. The more than ordinary swiftness of the stream is the only thing which makes it to be observed. And that which makes it yet the stranger is, that for two leagues together, below the

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Fall, towards Lake Ontario or Frontenac, the lands are as level as they are above it towards the Lake Erie.

“Our surprise was still greater when we observed there was no mountain within two good leagues of this cascade; and yet the vast quantity of water which is discharged by these four fresh seas, stops or centres here, and so falls above six hundred feet deep down into a gulf, which one cannot look upon without horror. Two other great outlets or falls of water, which are on the two sides of a small sloping island, which is in the midst, fall gently and without noise, and so glide away quietly enough; but when this prodigious quantity of water of which I speak, comes to the fall, there is such a din and such a noise, more deafening than the loudest thunder.

“The rebounding of these waters is so great, that a sort of cloud arises from the foam of it, which is seen hanging over this abyss, even at noon-day, when the sun is at its height. In the midst of summer, when the weather is hottest, they rise above the tallest firs, and other great trees, which grow on the sloping island, which makes the two falls of water that I spoke of.

“I wished an hundred times, that somebody had been with us, who could have described the wonders of this prodigious, frightful Fall, so as to give the reader a just and natural idea of it; such as might satisfy him, and

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cause in him an admiration of this prodigy of Nature, as great as it deserves. In the meantime accept the following draught, such as it is; in which, however, I have endeavored to give the curious reader as just an image of it as I can.

“ We must call to mind what I observed of it in the beginning of my voyage. From the mouth of the Lake Erie to the Great Fall, are reckoned six leagues, as I have said, which is the continuation of the great river of St. Lawrence, which arises out of the four lakes above mentioned. The river, you must needs think, is very rapid for these six leagues, because of the vast discharge of waters which fall into it out of the said lakes. The lands which lie on both sides of it to the east and west, are all level from the Lake Erie to the Great Fall. Its banks are not steep, on the contrary, the water is almost always level with the land. It is very certain, that the ground toward the Fall is lower, by the more than ordinary swiftness of the stream; and yet it is not perceivable to the eye for six leagues above.

“ After it has run thus violently for six leagues, it meets with a small sloping island, about half a quarter of a league long, and near three hundred feet broad, as well as one can guess by the eye; for it is impossible to come at it in a canoe of bark, the waters run with that force. The isle is full of cedar and fir; but the land of it lies no

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higher than that on the banks of the river. It seems to be all level, even as far as the two great cascades that make the main Fall.

“The two sides of the channels, which are made by the isle, and run on both sides of it, overflow almost the very surface of the earth of the said isle, as well as the land that lies on the banks of the river to the east and west, as it runs south and north. But we must observe, that at the end of the isle, on the side of the two Great Falls, there is a sloping rock which reaches as far as the great gulf, into which the said water falls, and yet the rock is not at all wetted by the two cascades, which fall on both sides, because the two torrents which are made by the isle, throw themselves with a prodigious force, one towards the east and the other towards the west, from off the end of the isle, where the Great Fall of all is.

“After these two torrents have thus run by the two sides of the isle, they cast their waters all of a sudden, down into the gulf by two great falls; which waters are pushed so violently on by their own weight, and so sustained by the swiftness of the motion, that they do not wet the rock in the least. And here it is that they tumble down into an abyss above six hundred feet in depth.

“The waters that flow on the side of the east, do not throw themselves with that violence as those that fall on the west; the reason is, because the rock at the end of

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the island, rises something more on this side than it does on the west; and so the waters being supported by it somewhat longer than they are on the other side, are carried the smoother off; but on the west, the rock sloping more, the waters, for want of a support, become the sooner broken, and fall with greater precipitation. Another reason is, the lands that lie on the west are lower than those that lie on the east. We also observed that the waters of the fall that is to the west, made a sort of a square figure as they fell, which made a third cascade, less than the other two, which fell betwixt the south and north.

“ And because there is a rising ground which lies before those two cascades to the north, the gulf is much larger there than to the east. Moreover, we must observe, that from the rising ground that lies over against the two last falls, which are on the west of the main fall, one may go down as far as the bottom of this terrible gulf. The author of this discovery was down there, the more narrowly to observe the fall of these prodigious cascades. From thence we could discover a spot of ground, which lay under the fall of water which is to the east, big enough for four coaches to drive abreast, without being wet; but because the ground which is to the east of the sloping rock, where the first fall empties itself into the gulf, is very steep and perpendicular, it is

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impossible for a man to get down on that side, into the place where the four coaches may go abreast, or to make his way through such a quantity of water as falls towards the gulf; so that it is very probable, that to this dry place it is that the rattle-snakes retire, by certain passages which they find under ground.

“ From the end of this island it is that these two great falls of waters, as also the third but now mentioned, throw themselves, after a most surprising manner, down into a dreadful gulf, six hundred feet and more in depth. I have already said, that the waters which discharge themselves at the cascade to the east, fall with lesser force; whereas those to the west tumble all at once, making two cascades, one moderate, the other very violent and strong, which at last make a kind of crotchet or square figure, falling from south to north, and west to east. After this they rejoin the waters of the other cascade that falls to the east, and so tumble down altogether, though unequally, into the gulf, with all the violence that can be imagined from a fall of six hundred feet, which makes the most frightful cascade in the world.

“ After these waters have thus discharged themselves into the dreadful gulf, they begin to resume their course, and continue the great river St. Lawrence for two leagues, as far as the three mountains which are on the

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east side of the river, and the great rock which is on the west, and lifts itself three fathoms above the water, or thereabouts. The gulf into which these waters are discharged, continues itself thus two leagues together, between a chain of rocks, flowing with a prodigious torrent, which is bridled and kept in by the rocks that lie on each side of the river.

“Into this gulf it is that these several cascades empty themselves, with a violence equal to the height from whence they fall, and the quantity of water which they discharge; and hence arise those deafening sounds, that dreadful roaring and bellowing of the waters, which drown the loudest thunder, as also the perpetual mists that hang over the gulf, and rise above the tallest pines that are in the little isle so often mentioned. After a channel is again made at the bottom of this dreadful fall, by the chain of rocks, and filled by that prodigious quantity of waters which are continually falling, the river of St. Lawrence resumes its course. But with that violence, and its waters beat against the rocks with so prodigious a force, that it is impossible to pass even in a canoe of bark, though in one of them, a man may venture safe enough upon the most rapid streams, by keeping close to the shore.

“These rocks, as also the prodigious torrent, last for two leagues; that is from the great falls, to the three

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mountains and great rock; but then it begins insensibly to abate, and the land to be again almost on a level with the water, and so it continues as far as the Lake Ontario or Frontenac.

“When one stands near the fall, and looks down into the dreadful gulf, one is seized with horror, and the head turns round, so that one cannot look long or steadfastly upon it. But this vast deluge beginning insensibly to abate, and even to fall to nothing about the three mountains, the waters of the river St. Lawrence begin to glide more gently along, and to be almost upon a level with the lands; so that it becomes navigable again as far as the Lake Frontenac, over which we pass to come to the new canal, which is made by the discharge of its waters. Then we enter again upon the river St. Lawrence, which not long after makes that which they call the Long Fall, an hundred leagues from Niagara.

“I have often heard talk of the cataracts of the Nile, which make the people deaf that live near them. I know not if the Iroquois, who formerly inhabited near this fall, and lived upon beasts which from time to time are borne down by the violence of its torrent, withdrew themselves from its neighborhood, lest they should likewise become deaf, or out of the continual fear they were in of rattle-snakes, which are very common in this place

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during the great heats, and lodge in the holes along the rocks as far as the mountains, which lie two leagues lower."

The writer, after considerable inquiry and personal examination, is unable to determine what Father Hennepin means by the Three Mountains, and the Great Rock; and he cannot believe that the falls were ever six hundred feet high, as is repeatedly stated in the book. But Father Hennepin's description is, in the main, remarkably correct; and establishes the fact, that in 1678, there were three distinct falls as they are now, and that the fall on the Canada side exhibited then somewhat of the appearance of a horse shoe. His description too, of the islands, shores, &c., corresponds with their present appearance.

In a work written by the Chevalier de Tonti,* who was of the party with Father Hennepin, there is a description of the falls, and of Niagara river, corresponding with, and corroborating Hennepin's, but with the addition of no important facts.

Baron La Hontan,† who visited this cataract in May,

* Entitled, "*Relations de la Louisiane et du Fleuve Mississippi, etc. 1720, Amsterdam, par le Gouverneur de Tonti, Gouverneur du Fort Saint Louis, aux Illinois.*"

† His book is entitled, "*New Voyages to North America, etc. Written in French, by the Baron La Hontan, Lord Lieutenant of the French Colony at Placentia, in New-Foundland, at that time in England. Done into English, the second edition. London, 1735.*"

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1688, thus describes it: "As for the waterfall of Niagara, it is seven or eight hundred feet high, and half a league broad. Towards the middle of it we descry an island that leans towards the precipice, as if it were ready to fall. All the beasts that cross the water within half a quarter of a league above the unfortunate island, are sucked in by the force of the stream. And the beasts and fish that are thus killed by the prodigious fall, serve for food to fifty Iroquese, who are settled above two leagues off, and take 'em out of the water with their canows. Between the surface of the water that shelves off prodigiously, and the foot of the precipice, three men may cross in abreast, without any other damage than a sprinkling of some few drops of water."

In the Philosophical Transactions, for 1722, there is a description of the falls, given by Monsieur Borasseau, who had visited them at seven different times. He says that the Governor of Canada had, on the previous year, "ordered his own son, with three other officers, to survey Niagara, and take the exact height of the cataract, which they accordingly did, with a stone of half a hundred weight, and a large cod line, and found it, upon a perpendicular, twenty-six fathoms," or one hundred and twenty-six feet.

These extracts may not be considered of much value, except by those persons who have a curiosity to learn

Places of Descent . . . View from Brock's Monument.

something about the falls, as they appeared in a former age.

There are five places between the Falls and Lewiston, where persons can descend from the top of the bank to the water, viz: from the end of Mr. Childs' and also Mr. Graves's farm, at the Whirlpool, at the Devil's Hole, and from the end of Mr. Colt's farm. There are also, on the Canada side, a number of places where visitors can descend safely to the water's edge. From these places under the bank, the river scenery appears transcendantly beautiful and sublime, and the rapids strike the beholder with more amazement, if possible, than the falls themselves. Here may be found in reality,

"A happy rural seat of various view ;

Flowers of all hue, —————

Umbrageous grots and caves

Of cool recess, o'er which the mantling vine

Lays forth her purple grape, and gently creeps

Luxuriant."

The top of the bank on either side, near Brock's Monument, affords a delightful and almost boundless prospect of the country and lake below. The unrivalled Niagara is traced to its outlet, guarded by two opposite Forts, and bearing sloops and steamboats into the glassy lake; while the mighty expanse of plains and waters presents

Quantity of Water passing over the Falls.

a scene so picturesque and enchanting, that the traveller leaves his position with reluctance. From Lewiston to Lake Ontario, seven miles, the river is deep, smooth and navigable for boats and vessels of every description; and Lewiston, being the head of navigation, is the principal landing place for the steamboats that run on Lake Ontario.

At the mouth of the Niagara river, on the American side, stand the villages of Youngstown and Fort Niagara; and on the Canada side, the villages of Niagara and Fort George.

The quantity of water constantly pouring over the falls, and passing into the lake, is computed, from probable data, at 670,250 tons per minute: but Dr. Dwight computes it, from the depth, width, and velocity of the current, at more than eighty-five millions of tons per hour; and by another calculation, supposing a swifter current, at 102,093,750 tons per hour. Darby computes it at 1,672,704,000 cubic feet per hour. These results are somewhat different, but the first is probably nearest the truth. Dr. Dwight supposes, in one calculation, a current of five, and in the other, of six miles per hour, the least of which is undoubtedly too much. The prodigious torrent of waters, and the tremendous rush and noise of the falling cataract, seems to put at defiance all attempts at calculation.

Objects of Special Interest . . . Curiosities.

OBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST — CURIOSITIES.

A number of these, as the islands, the bridges, the stair-cases, the burning springs, Brock's Monument, the Welland Canal, &c., have already been described. One mile above the falls, on the American side, is the site of old Fort Schlosser; a place somewhat distinguished in the early history of this region, and commanding a most beautiful prospect of the river and rapids, of Grand and Navy Islands, and of the village of Chippewa, on the opposite shore. Nothing remains of the fort, except the entrenchments, and a few rods of pavement within.

A stockade was built here in the year 1672. Before the construction of the Erie Canal, all the business between the lakes were interchanged by means of a land carriage from this place to Lewiston. Half a mile below the falls, under the bank, are Catlin's Caves, a visit to which no traveller will be likely to regret. Vast quantities of calcareous or petrified moss are found here in all stages of its petrifying process. On the other side, nearly opposite, is Bender's Cave, a place which is thought to be worthy a special visit.

Mineral Spring . . . Whirlpool.

MINERAL SPRING.

Two miles below the falls, on the American side, is a Mineral Spring, containing sulphuric and muriatic acids, lime and magnesia; and by the use of its waters many important cures have been effected. For scrofulous, rheumatic and cutaneous complaints, this spring supplies an almost sovereign remedy. From the stage road near the spring, travellers have a most delightful view of the whole falls, two miles distant; and if they see the falls from this place first, as they generally do in coming up from Lewiston, the impression here made will probably never be effaced. Capt. Hall remarks respecting this place, "I felt at the moment quite sure that no subsequent examination, whether near or remote, could ever remove, or even materially weaken the impression left by this first view."

WHIRLPOOL.

One mile further down leads to a tremendous whirlpool, resembling very much, in its appearance and gyrations, the celebrated Mælstrom on the coast of

The Whirlpool.

Norway. Logs and trees are sometimes whirled around for days together in its outer circles, while in the centre they are drawn down perpendicularly with great force, are soon shot out again at the distance of many rods, and occasionally thrust into the channel to pass down the river. The river here makes nearly a right angle, which occasions the whirlpool, — is narrower than at any other place, — not more than thirty rods in width, — and the current runs with such amazing velocity as to rise up in the middle ten feet above the sides. This has been ascertained by actual measurement.

“Resistless, roaring, dreadful down it comes, —
There, gathering triple force, rapid and deep, —
It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through.”

There is a path leading down the bank to the whirlpool on both sides, and, though somewhat difficult to descend and ascend, it is accomplished almost every day on the American side, by gentlemen, and often by ladies.

A brisk and very refreshing breeze is felt there during the hottest and stillest days of summer; and no place is better fitted to elevate and expand the mind. The whirlpool is a phenomenon of great interest as seen even from the top of the bank, especially if a small telescope be used; but to have any adequate idea of its power

Whirlpool . . . Perilous Incident.

and motion, visitors ought to descend to the water's edge, and walk some distance up the river. The rapids here are much more powerful and terrific than they are above the falls, and appear like a flood of watery brilliants rushing along.

Having written thus far, the writer laid down his pen and started off on a fresh visit to the whirlpool; and now, having spent half a day there in mute astonishment and admiration, and walked more than a mile by the river's edge, he is utterly at a loss what language to use in describing it. He is aware that the above description is tame and meagre; and yet he can think of no language, no imagery, no comparison, that will not fall immeasurably short of conveying a just idea of the scene. He can only say, soberly and earnestly, that no gentleman ought hereafter to acknowledge that he has seen the Falls of Niagara, unless he could also say he had seen the Whirlpool, from the water's edge. A staircase down the bank, would be a great accommodation to visitors, and it is to be hoped that one ere long will be constructed. Water for hydraulic purposes, may easily be brought into use here to an almost unlimited extent.

About the year 1812, an accident occurred here, perhaps worth recording. A party of men were employed in cutting cedar logs near the river about the whirlpool, with a view to get them floated to Lewiston. One man

Devil's Hole.

stepping upon some of them that were rafted, was imperceptibly, or perhaps through carelessness, drawn out into the current, and swiftly carried into the whirlpool. He clung to a log and was carried round and round in the capacious basin for hours, expecting every moment to be crushed among the logs or thrust into the vortex, while his companions on shore could afford him no relief. At length some of them ascended the bank, went to Queenston, four miles, and procured a boat to be drawn up by a team. This was let down the bank, and many people assembled with ropes, poles, &c. to render assistance. After the boat had been well secured, and some men had stepped in intending to push out into the whirlpool, the man upon the log, still whirling in imminent peril of his life, was, by some action of the water, sent out directly to the shore, and finally saved, without receiving any aid from others.

DEVIL'S HOLE.

A mile below the Whirlpool is a place on the American side, called the "Devil's Hole," embracing about two acres, cut out laterally and perpendicularly in the rock by the side of the river, and about one hundred and fifty feet deep. This name was probably given from that of

Devil's Hole.

the personage more frequently invoked in this region, formerly, than any other. How this hole was thus made it is difficult to conjecture. Visitors look into it with silent, inexpressible amazement. An angle of this hole or gulf comes within a few feet of the stage road, affording travellers an opportunity, without alighting, of looking into the yawning abyss. But they ought to alight and pass to the farther side of the flat projecting rock, where they will feel themselves richly repaid for their trouble. The scenery there presented is singularly captivating and sublime.

This place is distinguished by an incident that occurred about the year 1759. A company of British soldiers, pursued by the French and Indians, were driven off this rock at the point of the bayonet. All, save one, instantly perished upon the rocks two hundred feet beneath them. This one fell into the crotch of a tree, and succeeded afterwards in ascending the bank and making his escape.

A man by the name of Steadman, who lived at Fort Schlosser, was among this company of British, but made his escape on horseback, just before coming to the bank, though many balls whizzed about him in his flight. The Indians afterwards imagined him to be impenetrable, and invincible, became very friendly, and ultimately, in consideration of some services he rendered them, gave him all the land included between Niagara river and a

Tuscarora Indians.

straight line drawn from Gill Creek above Fort Schlosser to the Devil's Hole, embracing about 5000 acres. The heirs of Steadman, so late as the year 1823, instituted and carried on a long and expensive law-suit against the State of New-York, to recover this land. But they could show no title, and the suit resulted in favor of the State and the present occupants.

TUSCARORA INDIANS.

Eight miles below the Falls, and three miles back from the river, is the Reservation of the Tuscarora Indians, containing two miles in width by four in length, (about 5000 acres,) of very excellent land. They consist of about three hundred souls, have a Presbyterian Church of fifty members, a resident clergyman, and a school teacher, and a Temperance Society of more than one hundred members. They are under the care of the American Board of Foreign Missions. Their village is delightfully situated on a high bank commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country, and of Lake Ontario. But the greater part of the Indians live in a settlement a mile and a half from the village, and are not generally seen by visitors.

Battles.

These Indians came from North Carolina, about the year 1712, and joined the confederacy of the Five Nations, themselves making the Sixth. They formerly held a very valuable interest in land, in North Carolina, but have recently sold it and divided the proceeds equally among themselves. Many of them are in very prosperous circumstances; in the year 1834, one man raised and gathered fifty acres of wheat.

Visitors at the Falls have been in the habit of going, sometimes in crowds, to this village on the Sabbath; but the Indians, with their Missionary, have often expressed their desire that visitors would not interrupt them at that time.

BATTLES.

In the immediate vicinity of the Falls, many incidents have occurred to impart an additional interest. This was the scene of a number of battles fought during the last war with Great Britain; those at Fort Erie, Chippewa, and Lundy's Lane, were among the most bloody and hard fought, that are recorded in history. In the battle near Fort Erie, there was what has generally been considered, a Military Chief d'œuvre; the Americans, to the

Bridges.

number of 1000 regulars and 1000 of the militia, made a sortie and took the British works about 500 yards from their line, and returned in triumph. The battles in this region occurred in the following order, viz : at Queens-ton, October 13, 1812; at York, April 27, 1813; at Fort George, May 27, do.; at Stoney Creek, June 5, do.; at Beaver Dam, June 24, do.; Naval Battle on Lake Erie, September 10, do.; the village of Niagara Falls, Lewiston, and Youngstown burnt, December 19, do.; Buffalo and Black Rock burnt, December 31, do.; Fort Erie taken July 3, 1814; battle of Chippewa, July 6, do.; at Bridgewater or Lundy's Lane, July 25, do.; at Fort Erie, August 15, and September 17, 1814. The burning of villages and plunder of property on the frontier, are still remembered, and the circumstances detailed with thrilling interest, by many of the inhabitants.

BRIDGES.

In the year 1817, a bridge was constructed from the shore across the rapids to the head of Goat Island, but was swept away by the ice the ensuing spring. The present bridge was constructed in 1818, and is forty-four rods in length, exclusive of Bath Island. This bridge, though crossing the foaming rapids only sixty-four rods

Bridges.

above the falls, over which visiters are at first disposed to walk lightly and with quickened pace, is perfectly safe for all kinds of teams and carriages, and seems destined to stand a great length of time. Multitudes inquire, with wonder and eager curiosity, how it could have been constructed in this imminently dangerous place.

They shall be informed; and they will see that, like a thousand other difficult things, it was easily accomplished, when the *mode* was ascertained. Two very long timbers were thrust out from the shore on an abutment, having the forward ends elevated a little above the rapids and the others firmly secured upon the bank: these were then covered with plank for a temporary bridge. At the extremity of this bridge, very large stones were let down into the river, around which timbers were sunk, locked together so as to form a frame, which was afterwards filled with stone. To this, constituting the first pier, a firm bridge was then constructed, and the temporary bridge shoved forward so as to build a second pier like the first, and so on till the whole was completed. The honor of projecting and constructing this bridge belongs jointly and equally to the proprietors, the Hon. Augustus and General Peter B. Porter.

Till the year 1817, there was no way of descending or ascending the bank below the falls, except by a ladder

Places of Resort . . . Minerals.

about one hundred feet in length; since then a safe and convenient flight of stairs has been built, by which visitors can have an easy descent to the ferry, and an opportunity to pass a considerable distance behind the magnificent sheet of water. Perhaps there is no place where the height of the fall is so impressively realized as here.

PLACES OF RESORT — MINERALS.

There are a number of pretty establishments at the Falls, where are kept on hand rich specimens of the mineral, fossil, vegetable and animal productions of the vicinity. Among these establishments, as a place of resort, Mr. W. E. HULETT's, deserves a conspicuous notice. His place is directly opposite the Cataract Hotel, and visitors will there find a library, reading-room, billiard-room, &c. &c., and a most splendid collection of minerals, both from the vicinity of the Falls, and from other parts of the United States.

Mr. A. B. Jacobs, on Bath Island, Mr. S. Hooker, and some others, on the American side; and Mr. Barnett, at his Museum, Mr. Starkey and Mr. Shultersburgh, on

Incidents.

the Canada side, keep on hand an assortment of mineralogical specimens, a variety of elegant articles of Indian manufacture, canes, &c. Among the minerals kept for sale, are, transparent selenites; snow-white gypsum; calcareous, bitter, dog-tooth, and fluor spar: crystalized quartz; petrifications; favasites and other fossils; shells, &c. There are also some noble specimens of bald and gray eagles, with which this region abounds.

INCIDENTS.

Men have occasionally been drawn into the rapids with their boats, and carried over the falls; but not a vestige of them or their boats has scarcely ever been found. The great depth of the water below, and the tumultuous agitation occasioned by the eddies, whirlpools, and counter currents, make it next to impossible for any thing once sunk to rise again, until carried so far down the stream as to make fruitless any research.

In the year 1820, two men, in a state of intoxication, fell asleep in their scow which was fastened at the mouth of Chippewa Creek; while there it broke away, and they awoke finding themselves beyond the reach of hope, dashing over the rapids.

Vessels driven over the Falls.

In the year 1822, two others, engaged in removing some furniture from Grand Island, were by some carelessness drawn into the rapids, and hurried over the cataract.

In 1825, two more, in attempting to smuggle some whiskey across to Chippewa, were hurried into the rapids and shared a similar fate. A story has frequently been told of an Indian, who fell asleep in his canoe some miles above, and awoke in the midst of the rapids; perceiving that all efforts to escape would be vain, he turned his bottle of whiskey down his throat, and composedly awaited the awful plunge. This story the writer believes to be fabulous, as he has never been able to find any foundation for it, except that it is a stereotype Indian story, told as having happened at all the different falls in the country.

In September 1827, notice having been given in the newspapers that the Michigan, a large vessel that had run on Lake Erie, would be sent over the falls, thirty thousand people, it was supposed, assembled to witness the novel spectacle. On board of this vessel were put two bears, a buffalo, two raccoons, a dog, and a goose; the bears leaped off in the midst of the rapids, and, miraculously almost, finally reached the shore in safety. The others went over and perished. The Michigan before she reached the falls, having been considerably

Vessels driven over the Falls.

broken in the rapids, sunk to a level with the surface, and went over near the centre of the horse-shoe fall. The distance from deck to keel was sixteen feet; and as she did not appear to touch the bottom for eighty rods before she went over, the conclusion is, that the water as it passes over the precipice there must be at least twenty feet deep.

In October 1829, another vessel, the Superior, was advertised to be sent over, which drew together about fifteen thousand people. This vessel lodged in the rapids and remained a number of weeks, and finally passed over the falls in the night.

In August 1828, a small sloop, abandoned by the men through fright, near the mouth of Chippewa Creek, was blown with all her sails up, so far across the river as to come down on the American side of Goat Island; but was broken to a perfect wreck in the rapids, so as to pass under the bridge and over the falls.

In July 1832, a canal boat was blown over from Chippewa, and lodged in the rapids a short distance above the bridge. Some men and one woman were on board, and were saved at most imminent peril, and the boat was finally secured and drawn ashore.

The rock at the falls is hard limestone to the depth of about seventy feet, below which it is loose, crumbling shale, which is constantly wearing away and leaving a projection of the limestone.

Fall of Table Rock . . . Sam Patch.

A mass of Table Rock, 160 feet in length and from 30 to 40 feet in width, fell off in July 1818, with a tremendous crash. On the 9th of December 1828, three immense portions broke from the horse-shoe fall, causing a shock like an earthquake. Another large portion fell in the summer of 1829, and the noise it occasioned was heard several miles. And yet, judging from the published accounts of the falls which reach back nearly two hundred years, there has been but very little recession of the falls within that period.

In October 1829, Sam Patch jumped twice, in the presence of thousands of spectators, from the top of a ladder ninety seven feet high into the eddy below the falls. This ladder was erected directly below the Bidle Stair-case. Poor Sam afterwards lost his life by jumping from the falls of Genesee River, at Rochester.

May 19, 1835, two men in attempting to pass down the river from Tonawanda to Chippewa in a scow, were driven by the wind into the rapids, and one of them went over the falls; the other, after leaping from the scow, reached a shoal where he could stand in the water with his head out. In this situation he was seen from the American shore; and two men, at the imminent hazard of their lives, went out in a boat, and succeeded in saving him, and returning safely to shore.

Again, June 10, 1835, two men in passing from Schlos-

Burning of the Caroline.

ser to Chippewa, in a skiff, were drawn into the rapids and hurried to destruction. While in the rapids, they were seen for a short time by persons on the Pavilion. Some days afterwards, their bodies were found in an eddy a mile below the falls, one of which was deprived of a leg and an arm.

Another melancholy incident happened on the night of December 29, 1837, while the Patriots were in possession of Navy Island. The steamboat Caroline, while lying at Schlosser, was at midnight attacked by a party of Canadian soldiers and one person killed. She was then towed out into the stream, set on fire, and was carried over the falls by the current. Nothing was to be found of her the next morning except a small quantity of the wreck which was thrown upon the shore below the falls. The history of this boat was somewhat singular; she was originally built at Charleston, South Carolina, was from thence brought to New York, from thence to Albany, and from Albany she was brought through the Erie and Oswego Canals to Lake Ontario, and from Lake Ontario through the Welland Canal to Chippewa, U. C., between which place and Buffalo she plied for some time as a passage boat; until she was seized by the Collector of Buffalo, condemned, and sold for a violation of the revenue laws, and at length, during the Canadian disturbances, finished her career, by a leap down the awful abyss of Niagara.

Perilous Situation and Daring Rescue.

An occurrence of the most thrilling interest took place July 25, 1839, while the workmen were employed in repairing the bridge to Iris Island.

A man by the name of Chapin, while at work upon a staging, about 100 feet from the Island, accidentally lost his footing and was precipitated into the rapids, and in an instant swept away towards the great cataract. Speedy destruction seemed to await him; but fortunately he was uninjured by the fall, and in this condition retained his self-possession. He succeeded, by great dexterity in swimming, in effecting a landing upon a little island, the outermost of a group of little cedar Islands, situated some 30 or 40 yards above the falls, between Goat Island and the American shore.

There he remained for an hour, looking beseechingly back upon the spectators who lined the shore, among whom were his wife and children, and with whom he could hold no communication on account of the distance and the roar of the falls. In this emergency, Mr. J. R. Robinson, a man of extraordinary strength and intrepidity, and an excellent boatman, generously volunteered his services to attempt his rescue. A light boat of two oars, similar to the Whitehall race boats, was soon procured and he embarked.

He proceeded with great deliberation and skill, darting his little boat across the rapid channels, and at the

Perilous Situation and Daring Rescue.

intervening eddies, holding up, to survey his situation and recover strength. As he neared the island, a rapid channel still intervened, rendering the attempt to land very hazardous. He paused for a moment, and then with all his strength, darted across and sprang from his boat—his foot slipped, and he fell backward into the rapid current. With the most consummate coolness and skill, he retained his grasp on the boat, sprang in, and seizing his oars, brought up under the lee of the little Island. Still the great labor and hazard of the undertaking remained to be overcome. Robinson proved equal to the task. Taking his companion on board in the same careful and deliberate manner, though at infinitely greater hazard and labor, they effected a safe landing upon Goat Island. There the spectators assembled to give them a cordial greeting. A scene of great excitement ensued. The boat was drawn upon the bank and by acclamation a collection was taken up on the spot for Chapin and his noble hearted deliverer. It was generously made and thankfully received; but the reflection to Robinson that he has rescued a fellow creature under such circumstances, will be to his generous heart a much richer and more lasting reward. Robinson and Chapin were placed in the boat by the spectators and carried in triumph to the village.

The Hermit of Niagara Falls.

THE HERMIT OF NIAGARA FALLS.

June 10, 1831, the "Hermit" was drowned while bathing in the river below the falls. The following account of this singular being is abridged and condensed from one drawn up and published soon after his death.

"A young Englishman, named Francis Abbot, of respectable connexions, either through misfortune or a morbid state of mind, which made him desire seclusion, took up his residence on Goat Island, and in the neighborhood of the falls, for two years; and became so fascinated with the solitude, and infatuated with the scenery, that no inducement could divert his thoughts, or draw him from the spot, where he acquired the name of the "Hermit of Niagara Falls."

He arrived on foot in June, 1829, dressed in a loose gown or cloak of a chocolate color, carrying under his arm a roll of blankets, a flute, a portfolio, and a large book; which constituted the whole of his baggage. He took up his abode, in the first instance, at a small inn on the American side, stipulating that the room he occupied should be exclusively his own, and that certain parts of his cooking only should be done by his host. He then repaired to the Library, where he gave his name, and borrowed some books and music books, and pur-

The Hermit of Niagara Falls.

chased a violin; the following day he again visited the Library, expatiated largely, with great ease and ability, on the beautiful scenery of the falls, and declared his intention of remaining at least a week; for "a traveller might as well," he said, examine in detail the various museums and curiosities of Paris, as become acquainted with the splendid scenery of Niagara in the same space of time." On a subsequent visit he declared his intention of staying at least a month, perhaps six. Shortly after, he determined on fixing his abode on Goat Island, and was desirous of erecting a hut, in which he might live quite secluded; the proprietor of the island not thinking proper to grant this request, he occupied a small room in the only house,—being occasionally furnished with bread and milk by the family, but more generally providing and always cooking his own food. During the second winter of his seclusion, the family removed, and to the few persons with whom he held communion, he expressed great satisfaction at being able to live alone.

For some time he enjoyed this seclusion; but another family having entered the house, he quitted the island, and built himself a small cottage on the main shore, about thirty rods below the Great Fall. On the 10th of June, 1831, he was seen to bathe twice, and was observed by the ferryman to enter the water a third time about



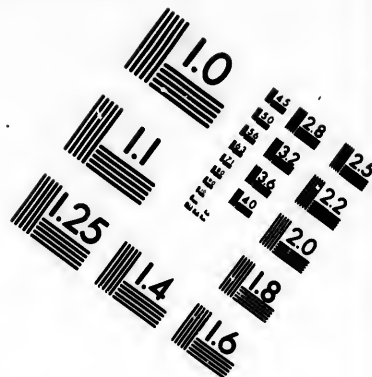
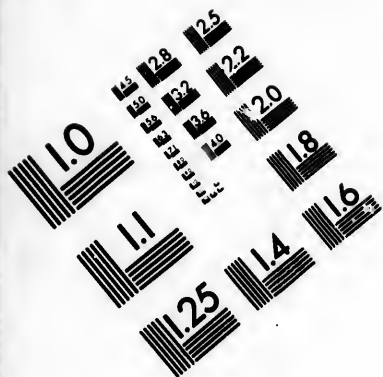
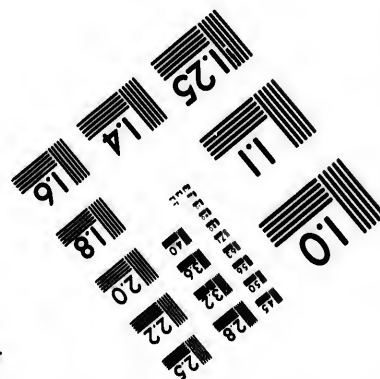
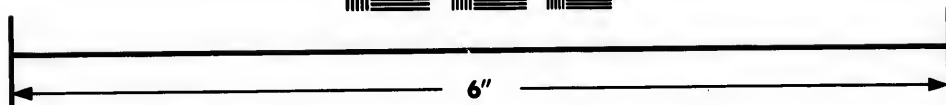
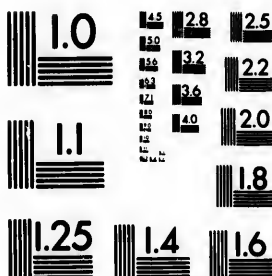


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The Hermit of Niagara Falls.

two o'clock in the afternoon; his clothes remaining some hours where he had deposited them, an alarm was created, and an ineffectual search was made for him. On the 21st, his body was taken out of the river at Fort Niagara, and was decently interred in the burial ground near the falls. When his cottage was examined, his dog was found guarding the door, and was with difficulty removed; his cat occupied his bed; his guitar, violin, flutes, music books, and portfolio, were scattered around in confusion; but not a single written paper of any kind was found (although he was known to compose much) to throw the least light on this extraordinary character. He was a person of highly cultivated mind and manners, a master of languages, read in the arts and sciences, and performed on various musical instruments with great taste; his drawings were also very spirited. He had travelled over Europe and many parts of the East, and possessed great colloquial powers when inclined to be sociable; but at times he would desire not to be spoken to, and communicated his wishes on a slate; sometimes for three or four months together he would go unshaved, with no covering on his head, and his body enveloped in a blanket; shunning all, and seeking the deepest solitude. His age was not more than twenty-eight, his person well made, and his features handsome. Many spots on Goat Island are consecrated to his

The Hermit of Niagara Falls.

memory; at the upper end he established his walk, which became hard trod and well beaten; between the Island and Moss Island was his favorite retreat for bathing; here he resorted at all seasons of the year even in the coldest weather, when ice was on the river; on the bridge to the Terrapin Rocks, it was his daily practice to walk for hours, from one extremity to the other with a quick pace; sometimes he would let himself down at the end of the projecting timber, and hang under it by his hands and feet over the terrific precipice, for fifteen minutes at a time, and in the wildest hours of the night he was often found walking in the most dangerous places near the Falls.

It is now ascertained that he was the son of the late John Abbot, (of Plymouth, England,) a member of the Society of Friends. His guitar, that beguiled so many of his solitary hours, and soothed him in his sorrow, is still preserved as a curiosity, and may be seen at Mr. Hooker's, in the village of Niagara Falls.

"Hush'd is the lyre—the hand that swept
The low and pensive wires,
Robbed of its cunning, from the task retires:
Yes—it is still—the lyre is still;
The spirit which its slumbers broke,
Hath pass'd away,—and that weak hand that woke
Its forest melodies, hath lost its skill."

Village of Niagara Falls.

VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

The country in the immediate vicinity of the Falls on both sides of the river, presents many powerful attractions for a permanent residence. For salubrity of air and healthfulness of climate, it yields to no spot in the United States. Here,

“Nature hath

The very soul of music in her looks,

The sunshine and the shade of poetry.”

The latitude here is 43 degrees 5 minutes North, and the longitude 2 degrees 6 minutes West from Washington. The winters are generally much milder than in New England, owing as supposed, to the action of the two neighboring lakes, that lie on either side.

In a pamphlet published in London in the year 1834, written by Robert Burford, Esq., who spent the summer and autumn of 1832, in taking a panoramic view of the Falls, it is stated that this place is “without all question, the most healthful of any on the continent of North America. The heat of summer can there be borne with pleasure, while at the same time, the annoyance of musquitoes and other insects is unknown. Various are the

Village of Niagara Falls.

conjectures whence arises the remarkable salubrity of this region; but the most natural is, that the agitation of the surrounding air produced by the tremendous Falls, combines with the elevation and dryness of the soil, and absence of swamps, to produce this happy result."

In the summer of 1832, when the cholera raged in all the villages around, as Buffalo, Lockport, Lewiston, &c., not a single case occurred here. Again, when this disease visited many villages in the vicinity, in the summer of 1834, this place was wholly exempt.

The village of Niagara Falls on the American side, formerly called Manchester, contains about 500 inhabitants.

There are two spacious Hotels in the village, the Eagle and the Cataract, which will accommodate a large number of permanent guests. The latter is kept by Gen. P. Whitney & Sons, favorably known here in the business. Gen. Whitney has been engaged in this business for nearly 20 years. The Eagle Hotel, formerly kept by T. W. Fanning, and now by Messrs. C. B. Griffen & Co. A most splendid Hotel was commenced by the celebrated BENJAMIN RATHBUN, in the year 1836, and the foundation and basement were completed, when the astounding developement of that person's affairs rendered it necessary for him to assign all his property, and all operations on the building in question ceased. It is hoped however

Steam-Boats... Rail Roads... Stages.

that the building will be completed by the present proprietors. The village also contains a Presbyterian Church, and a "Union House," for the use of all other denominations when they choose to come to it.— It has a Paper Mill, a Flouring Mill, and a few Mechanics' Shops; and there is an opportunity of using water here to an unlimited extent.

Canal boats and sloops come from the Erie Canal and the Lake to Porter's Store-house, a short distance above the Falls. There are three Rail Roads now finished, which terminate at Niagara Falls. One from Buffalo, distant 22 miles—one from Lockport, and one from Lewiston. Stage coaches run from the Falls in all directions, and the mail passes regularly twice every day. The roads from Buffalo, Lewiston and Lockport are now very good; equal to any in this region, and afford to travellers many delightful views of the river, the Falls, and the rapids;—especially as the road from Buffalo to Lewiston passes very near the bank of the river the whole distance. The steamboat Red Jacket also runs daily from Buffalo to the landing two miles above the Falls, and thence across to Chippewa, and returns daily by the same route. This is a perfectly safe and very pleasant route to the Falls. At Lewiston, seven miles below, steamboats from Lake Ontario are daily bringing and receiving passengers. Near Lewiston commences the celebrated Ridge Road,—

Ridge Road...Visitors.

formerly, without doubt, a sand bank on the margin of Lake Ontario,—and runs east to Rochester, and thence nearly to Oswego, a distance of about 140 miles. It runs parallel with the Lake, from six to ten miles distant, is from forty to eighty yards wide, thirty feet higher than the contiguous land, and one hundred and thirty-nine feet higher than the Lake. It is an excellent road at all seasons of the year.

NUMBER OF VISITERS.

The number of visitors at the falls has of late years been from twelve to fifteen thousand annually, and the number is every year increasing. On the occasion of sending the Michigan over the falls, some years since, from thirty to fifty thousand persons were supposed to be here together; and when the Superior was sent over, fifteen thousand. The fashionable, the opulent, and the learned, congregate here from the principal cities of the country; from the Southern and Western States, South America, the West Indies, the Canadas, all parts of Europe, and indeed from all countries.

Exiled monarchs, foreign ambassadors, whigs, tories, radicals, royalists, naval and military officers, governors, judges, lawyers, senators, &c, with a good proportion of

Niagara.

female worthies, assemble here to view these indescribable works of God. One of these last, during a visit here in the summer of 1834, penned the following beautiful lines, which are worthy of being preserved as a memorial of female worth and genius.

NIAGARA.

Flow on forever, in thy glorious robe
Of terror and of beauty! God hath set
His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
Mantles around thy feet. And he doth give
The voice of thunder, power to speak of Him
Eternally—bidding the lip of man
Keep silence, and upon thy rocky altar pour
Incense of awe-stricken praise.

And who can dare
To lift the insect trump of earthly Hope,
Or Love, or Sorrow,—mid the peal sublime
Of thy tremendous hymn?—E'en Ocean shrinks
Back from thy brotherhood, and his wild waves
Retire abashed.—For he doth sometimes seem
To sleep like a spent laborer, and recall
His weary billows from their vexing play,
And lull them in a cradle calm;—but thou,
With everlasting, undecaying tide,
Dost rest not, night or day.

The morning stars,
When first they sang o'er young Creation's birth,

Niagara.

Heard thy deep anthem—and those wreaking fires
 That wait th' Archangel's signal to dissolve
 The solid Earth, shall find Jehovah's name
 Graven, as with a thousand diamond spears,
 On thy unfathomed page. Each leafy bough,
 That lifts itself within thy proud domain,
 Doth gather greatness from thy living spray,
 And tremble at the baptism. Lo! yon birds,
 Do venture boldly near, bathing their wing
 Amid thy foam and mist.—'Tis meet for them
 To touch thy garment's hem,—or lightly stir
 The snowy leaflets of thy vapor wreath,—
 Who sport unharmed upon the fleecy cloud,
 And listen at the gates of Heaven,
 Without reproof. But, as for us,—it seems
 Scarce lawful with our broken tones to speak
 Familiarly of thee. Methinks, to tint
 Thy glorious features with our pencil's point,
 Or woo thee to the tablet of a song,
 Were profanation.

Thou dost make the soul
 A wondering witness of thy majesty;
 And while it rushes with delirious joy
 To tread thy vestibule, dost chain its steps,
 And check its rapture, with the humbling view
 Of its own nothingness—bidding it stand
 In the dread presence of th' Invisible,
 As if to answer to its God through thee.

Hartford, Conn.

L. H. S.

Visitors . . . Parties, &c.

This will no doubt hereafter become a place of great resort for invalids, as the health of such is generally observed to improve immediately on coming here. If any place in the country is peculiarly propitious for the recovery and preservation of health, this is the place.

During the winter months, though there are so many visitors, they are generally such as are passing through the region on business, and stay only a short time. Frequently however, parties from Buffalo, Lockport, Rochester, Canandaigua, and other places, visit the Falls by sleighing; and after spending a day or two, go away enraptured with the scene.

Many visitors err greatly in their calculation in regard to the time which they ought to spend here. They come hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to view the falls, and then hurry away before they have had time to get any very full or distinct impression of the scene, or to visit one fifth of the interesting points, from which the falls and rapids ought to be viewed. The object of the visit is thus in a great measure lost. Visitors should make their calculations, in the summer especially, to spend at least a week.

Persons who spend some time at the falls, will find several places in the vicinity, on both sides of the river, worthy a special visit. Eleven miles south, on the American side, is the village of Tonawanda, from which

Places of Resort in the vicinity of the Falls.

there is a ferry across to White Haven on Grand Island; proceeding eleven miles further, you pass through Black Rock to Buffalo and Lake Erie. One mile below the falls, is Point View, so called; one mile further you find the Mineral Spring; one mile further the Whirlpool; half a mile further, the Devil's Hole; eight miles from the falls, the village of the Tuscarora Indians; seven miles, Lewiston village, where the steam-boats from Lake Ontario receive passengers; seven miles below Lewiston is the village of Youngstown, and one mile further, Fort Niagara, standing on the border of Lake Ontario.

From the falls on the Canada side, one mile south brings you to the burning spring; two and a half miles to Chippewa battle ground and village; twenty miles through the village of Waterloo to Fort Erie near Lake Erie. From the falls north, one mile brings you to Lundy's Lane, where the battle of Bridgewater was fought; three and a half miles to the Whirlpool; six and a half to Queenston Heights and Brock's Monument; seven miles to Queenston village, opposite Lewiston; and fourteen miles to the village of Niagara and Fort George. Eight miles from the falls west, is the "Deep Cut," so called, of the Welland Canal, a place much visited in the summer. To carry you to any or all these places, carriages can always be had at a few moment's notice on either side of the river.

Description of the Falls.

APPENDIX.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NIAGARA FALLS.

In approaching the end of our little volume, we cannot refrain from inserting a few extracts from the pens of those who by their language, show that they had minds to understand, and souls to appreciate, the sublimity and loveliness of Niagara.

The following singular and fanciful observations are to be found in the Duke de Liancourt's account of his visit to the Falls in 1795.

“From a country almost level, a chain of naked rocks here rises, upon both sides of the river, which at this point is contracted to the width of a single mile: these are the Alleghany Mountains, which extend to this point after having traversed the continent of North America from Florida upon the South.

“Mons. de Blacons conducted us to a point known, in the language of the country as, *Table Rock*. This is itself part of the rock from which the river is precipitated, and we found it barely above the level of the river's bed, and almost within its rushing waters; so that we saw, with entire safety the plunge of the torrent into the basin at our feet, and yet should have been hurled headlong down the cataract ourselves, had we advanced

Description of the Falls.

but two paces farther! From this position we enjoyed, at the same instant, the august spectacle of the foaming waters, as with a deafening roar they approached, through the rapids, this astonishing cataract, and of the eddying basin below, in which but an instant afterwards, these same waters were engulfed. It is certainly while standing at this point that this wonder of nature should be contemplated and studied, if the spectator is to view it from only one; but to drink in all its majesty it is necessary to observe it from all, since from whatever position, the beholder still finds the scene one of confounding and overwhelming admiration, bordering upon stupefaction.

"The falls of Niagara are comparable to nothing in nature. Neither the agreeable, the rude, the romantic, nor the beautiful enters into the scene; but wonder and wild astonishment at first sight seizes upon all the faculties, and their dominion is constantly strengthened by subsequent and profound contemplation of the picture, until the mind is finally convinced of its utter inability to convey or communicate the impressions so deeply stamped upon it by this terrific sport of nature."

The following is from the pen of the Rev. Andrew Reed, author of that simple, yet beautiful work, "No Fiction;" and is, we think, a most happy effort, and by far the best description we ever met with, embodied in so few words.

"At length we saw the spray rising through the trees, and settling like a white cloud over them; and then we heard the voice of the mighty waters—a voice all its own, and worthy of itself. . . Have you never felt a trem-

Description of the Falls.

bling backwardness to look on what you have intensely desired to see? If not, you will hardly understand my feeling. While all were now searching for some glance of the object itself, I was disposed to turn aside, lest it should surprise me. This no doubt was partly caused by the remark I had so often heard, that the first view disappoints you. I concluded, that this arose from the first view not being a fair one, and I was determined to do justice to the object of my reverence. In fulfilling this purpose, I reached the Pavilion without seeing any thing; disposed of my affairs there, and hastened down towards the Falls; and found myself actually on the Table Rock to receive my first impressions.

“Let any one pursue the same course, and he will not talk of first impressions disappointing him; or if he should, then he ought to go twenty miles another way; Niagara was not made for him.

“From the Table Rock I descended to the base.— There I clambered out on the broken rocks, and sat—I know not how long. The day was the least favorable of any we had. The atmosphere was heavy; the foam hung about the object and concealed one half of it; and the wind blew from the opposite side, and brought the spray upon you so as to wet you exceedingly. The use of cloak or umbrella were troublesome; you could not wholly forget your person, and think only of one thing. However, had I not seen it in this state of the atmosphere I should have wanted some views which now occupy my imagination. The whole is exceedingly solemn when nature frowns; and when much is hidden, while yet the eye has not marked the outline, there is a mysteriousness

Description of the Falls.

spread over the object which suits your conception of its greatness, and in which the imagination loves to luxuriate. I can scarcely define to you my impressions on this first day; I can scarcely define them to myself. I was certainly not disappointed; but I was confounded. I felt as though I had received a shock, and required time to right myself again.

"I returned to the Pavilion, which is about half a mile from the Falls, and retired to my chamber, which overlooked them. I mused on what I had seen, and was still confounded. I sought rest that I might be fresh for the morrow; but rest did not come so freely. The continuous deep sounds of the waters would have sung me to sleep, but the tremor of the house and ground, which shook the window like those of a stage coach, kept me wakeful; and when I fell into slumbers, the flitting dreams of what I had seen, would trouble and break them.

"Notwithstanding all disturbances, I rose on the next morning in good spirits. The day was all that could be wished. The sun shining, the heavens transparent, garnished with bright and peaceful clouds. The wind, too, was gentle and refreshing; and had shifted to our side, so as to promise the nearest points of sight without the discomfort of getting wet through.

"I now look fairly on the scene as it presented itself at my window, in the fair lights of the morning. It is composed rather of the accompaniments of the fall than of the fall itself. You look up the river full ten miles, and it runs in this part from two to three miles in breadth. Here it has formed, in its passage, beautiful little bays;

Description of the Falls.

and there it has worked through the slips of main-land putting out the fragments as so many islets to decorate its surface; while, on either hand, it is bounded by the original forests of pine. At the upper extremity you see the blue waters calmly resting under the more cerulean heavens; while nearer to you it becomes agitated, like a strong man preparing to run a race. It swells, and foams, and recoils, as though it were committed to some desperate issue; and then suddenly contracts its dimensions, as if to gather up all its power for the mighty leap it is about to make. This is all you see here; and it is enough.

"I left the hotel, and went down to the Table Rock, This is usually deemed the great point of sight; and for an upper view it undoubtedly is. It is composed of several ledges of rocks, having different advantages, and projecting as far over the gulf below as they can to be safe. But how shall I describe the objects before me! The mysterious veil which lay heavily yesterday on a large part of it, was now removed; and the outline of the picture was mostly seen. An ordinary picture would have suffered by this; but here the real dimensions are so vast, and so far beyond what the eye has measured, that to see them is not to fether, but to assist the imagination. This fall, which is called the Horseshoe Fall, is upwards of two thousand feet in extent, and makes a leap, on an average, of about 160 feet. Now just enlarge your conceptions to these surprising dimensions, and suppose yourself to be recumbent on the projecting rock which I have named, as near the verge as you dare, and I will assist you to look at the objects as they present themselves.

Description of the Falls.

“You see not now above the cataract the bed of the river, but you still see the foaming heads of the rapids, like waves of the ocean, hurrying to the precipice; and over them the light clouds which float on the horizon.— Then comes the *chute* itself. It is not in the form of the horseshoe; it is not composed of either circular or straight lines; but it partakes of both; and throughout it is marked by projections and indentations, which give an amazing variety of form and aspect. With all this variety it is one. It has all the power which is derived from unity, and none of the stiffness which belongs to uniformity. There it falls in one dense awful mass of green waters, unbroken and resistless; here it is broken into drops, and falls like a sea of diamonds sparkling in the sun. Now it shoots forth like rockets in endless succession; and now it is so light and foaming that it dances in the sun as it goes, and before it has reached the pool, it is driven up again by the ascending currents of air. Then there is the deep expanding pool below.— Where the waters pitch, all is agitation and foam, so that the foot of the fall is never seen; and beyond it and away, the waters spread themselves out like a rippling sea of liquid alabaster. This last feature is perfectly unique, and you would think nothing could add to its exquisite loveliness; but there lies on it, as if they were made for each other, “heaven’s own bow.” O never had it, in heaven itself, so fair a resting-place!

“Besides, by reason of the different degrees of rarity in the waters and the atmosphere, the sun is pervading the whole scene with unwonted lights and hues. And the foam which is flying off in all directions, is insensi-

Description of the Falls

bly condensed, and forms a pillar of cloud, which moves over the scene, as it once did over the tents of Israel, and apparently by the same bidding, giving amazing variety, and sublimity, and unearthliness to the picture. Then there is sound as well as sight; but what sound! it is not like the sea; nor like the thunder; nor like any thing I have heard. There is no roar, no rattle; nothing sharp or angry in its tones; it is deep, awful, one!

“Well, as soon as I could disengage myself from this spot, I descended to the bed of the fall. I am never satisfied with any fall till I have availed myself of the very lowest standing it supplies: it is there usually that you become susceptible of its utmost power, I scrambled, therefore, over the dislocated rocks, and put myself as near as possible to the object which I wished to absorb me. I was not disappointed.

“There were now fewer objects in the picture, but what you saw had greater prominence and power over you. Every thing ordinary—foliage, trees, hills—was shut out; the smaller attributes of the fall were also excluded; and I was left alone with its own greatness. At my feet the waters were creaming, swelling, and dashing away, as if in terror, from the scene of conflict, at the rate of twenty miles an hour. Above and overhanging me was the Table Rock, with its majestic form, and dark and livid colors, threatening to crush one. While immediately before me was spread in all its height and majesty—not in parts, but as a whole, beyond what the eye could embrace—the unspeakable cataract itself; with its head now touching the horizon, and seeming to fall direct from heaven, and rushing to the earth with

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British Fall, from under Table Rock.

Description of the Falls.

a weight and voice which made the rocks beneath and around me fearfully to tremble. Over this scene the cloud of foam mysteriously moved, rising upward, so as to spread itself partly on the face of the fall, and partly on the face of the sky: while over all were seen the beautiful and soft colors of the rainbow, forming almost an entire circle, and crowning it with celestial glory. But it is in vain. The power, the sublimity, the beauty, the bliss of that spot, of that hour—it cannot be told.

“When fairly exhausted by intensity of feeling, I strolled away towards the ferry, to pass over to the American side. The falls here, from the distance, have a plain and uniform aspect: but this wholly disappears on approaching them. They are exceedingly fine. They do not subdue you as on the Canada side; but they fill you with a solemn and delightful sense of their grandeur and beauty. The character of the one is beautiful, inclining to the sublime; and that of the other, the sublime, inclining to the beautiful. There is a single slip of the fall on this side, which, in any other situation, would be regarded as a most noble cataract. It falls nearly 200 feet; it is full 20 feet wide at the point of fall, and spreads itself like a fan in falling, so as to strike on a line of some 50 or 60 feet. It has great power and beauty.

“I found that there was a small ledge of rock behind this fall, and ventured on it to about the centre. You can stand here without getting at all wet; the waters shoot out several feet before you; and, if you have nerve, it is entirely safe. I need not say that the novelty and beauty of the situation amply reward you. You

Description of the Falls.

are behind the sheet of water, and the sun is shining on its face, illuminating the whole body with a variety proportioned to its density. Here, before you, the heavy waters fall in unbroken columns of bright green. There, they flow down like a shower of massy crystals, radiant with light, and emitting as they fall all the prismatic colors; while there, again, they are so broken and divided as to resemble a shower of gems sparkling in light, and shooting across the blue heavens.

"I passed by what is called Goat Island to the extremity of the Horse-shoe fall on this side. There is carried out over the head of this fall a limb of timber, with a hand-rail to it. It projects some 12 feet over the abyss, and is meant to supply the place of the Table Rock on the other side. It does so in a great measure; and as, while it is quite as safe, it gives you far less sense of safety, it disposes you the more to sympathize with objects of terror. Indeed, when you fairly get to the extremity, and find yourself standing out in this world of waters on a slip of wood only large enough for your feet to rest on, and which is quivering beneath you; when the waters are rushing down under you; when the spray is flying over you; and when the eye seeks to fathom the unfathomable and boisterous gulf below; you have, perhaps, as much of the terrible as will consist with gratification. Very many of the visitors never think of encountering this point of view; those who do and have a taste for it will never forget it. It is among the finest of the fine.

"In returning, I wandered round the little island. It is covered with forest trees of a fine growth, and is full

Description of the Falls.

of picturesque beauty. Days might be spent here in happy and deep seclusion; protected from the burning sun; regaled by lovely scenes of nature, and the music of the sweetest waters; and in fellowship, at will, with the mighty falls.

"The next morning was the last; and it was given wholly to the Great Fall. I prepared, in the first instance to go behind it. This is the chief adventure; and is by most writers described as dangerous. There is no danger if the overhanging rocks keep their places, and if you have moderate self-possession. I made use of the oil cloth dress provided by the guide, and was quarrelling with it as damp and uncomfortable; but that grievance was quickly disposed of. I had not made my entrance behind the scenes before I was drenched, and the less I had on the better. However, it was an admirable shower-bath; and there was an end to the question of wet or dry. "Take care of your breath." was the cry of the guide; and I had need, for it was almost gone. On making a further advance, I recovered it, and felt relieved. "Now give me your hand," said the guide; "this is the narrowest part." Onward I went, till he assured me that I was on Termination Rock: the extreme point accessible to the foot of man.

"As the labor of the feet was over, and there was good standing, I determined on making the best use of my eyes. But this was not so easy to do. The spray and waters were driving in my face, and coursing down my sides most strangely: a strong wind from the foot of the fall was driving in the opposite direction, so as to threaten not to blow me down, but to blow me up to the

Description of the Falls.

roof of the vault. However, I soon ascertained that we were at the extremity of a cavern of a large and wonderful construction. It is the form of a pointed arch; the one span composed of rolling and dense water, and the other of livid black rocks. It was some 50 feet from the foot of the rock to that of the water, and I had entered about 70 feet. On the entrance, which is mostly of thinner waters, the sun played cheerfully, and with glowing power; but within, it was contrasted by the dim light and heavy obscurity which are generated by the density of the fall, to which the whole power of the sun can give only a semi-transparency. What with this visible gloom, the stunning noise of the fall, and the endless commotion of wind and waters, the effect is most singular and awful. It is a scene that would harmonize with the creations of Fuseli; and it has, I will venture to say, real horrors, beyond what the cave of old Æolus ever knew.

“On returning to my dressing-room, I received a certificate from the guide that I had really been to termination Rock; an ingenious device to give importance to his vocation, but in the success of which he does not miscalculate on human nature. The rest of the morning was employed in taking peeps at the Falls from favorite points of observation; but chiefly from the Table Rock, and at the foot of the Great Falls. The day was exceedingly fine, and every feature of the amazing scene was lighted up with all its beauty; and I now communed with it as one would with a friend who has already afforded you rich enjoyment in his society. I was delighted—was fascinated. Every thing, apart or together, seemed to have acquired greater power and expression. I studied all the parts; they were exquisite, lovely, noble; I put them all together, and it overwhelmed me, subdued me, fixed me to the spot. Long I stayed; but all time was short. I went, and returned; and knew not how to go.”

DISTANCES.

From Steamboat Landing across to Chippewa,	Miles	2½
From Fort Schlosser to Chippewa,.....	"	1½
From the Falls to Chippewa,.....	"	2
Across the River at the Falls,.....	"	¾
To Goat Island by the Bridge,.....	Rods	58
Across the Falls on the American side,.....	"	56
Across the foot of Goat Island,.....	"	80
Length of Goat Island,.....	"	160
Across the Horse Shoe Fall,.....	"	114
From the Eagle and Cataract Hotels to Table Rock,.....	Miles	1½
From the above Hotels to the top of the bank,	Rods	100
Top of the bank down the Stair-case to the River,.....	"	28
Width of river at the Ferry,.....	"	76
Up the Canada bank,.....	"	76
From the Falls to the Mineral Springs,.....	Miles	2
To the Whirlpool,.....	"	3
To the Devil's Hole,.....	"	3½
To Erie Canal at Tonawanda,.....	"	11
To Buffalo,.....	"	22
To Lockport,.....	"	18
To Lewiston,.....	"	7
Depth of water at the Horse Shoe,.....	Feet	20
Depth of water at the Ferry,.....	"	250

NOTE.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.—This beautiful structure was blown up with powder, by some as yet unknown miscreants on the night of the 17th April 1840, and very nearly ruined.

The key stone, over the door, is thrown out, the inscription stone has a large crack through the centre. A large fissure extends nearly half way up the building, on the side where the door is placed, then forks, and the forks are carried up to nearly two thirds of the height.

On the other side there are likewise several fissures. The dome is very much rent, the balcony broken, and the iron railing around, bent and disordered. The door at the top leading from the foot of the dome to the balcony, was open, otherwise the dome must have been blown off.

No discovery has yet been made of the perpetrators of the deed nor does any one know what were their motives. The action is certainly deserving of severe censure. Disturbing the monuments raised in honor of the dead, we had thought would not have been attempted by any in this age.

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